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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

After Friday's hearing, do you support Kilili's HR 1466 to grant status to certain groups of people in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Dust Storm

A giant wall of dust rolls through the Phoenix area, turning the sky brown.

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Sectarian Killing

A sectarian killing spree in Syria leaves 30 people dead.

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Untethering your teens for college often includes The Talk, Part 2.

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Reunification raises lots of questions

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) admits to being surprised as everyone else when Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said that he and Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo are working on plans to reunify the Marianas.

Fitial, in a public hearing on Friday, told the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs that he and his counterpart from Guam have vowed to work together in reunifying the two U.S. insular areas.

"Most of us were surprised to learn that Governor Fitial is working with Governor Calvo on plans to put the Mariana Islands under one government. This certainly raises a lot of questions," said Sablan in an email to the Saipan Tribune.

The two-term CNMI delegate to U.S. Congress said he is certainly baffled by Fitial's seemingly out-of-the-blue pronouncement on a sensitive is-

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'Without Russian, Chinese tourists, economic future of CNMI is bleak'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Citing that the Commonwealth direly needs continued access to Chinese and Russian tourists to revive its dwindling economy, Marianas Visitors Authority chair Marian Aldan-Pierce called for the inclusion of these two key markets in the final rules of the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

"The CNMI strongly recommends that the final rules be promulgated as soon as possible and that they contain a provision for continued visa waiver entry for Chinese and Russian citizens either into the CNMI only or into the CNMI and Guam," Aldan-Pierce said, speaking before a subcommittee hearing on Public Law 110-229 on Friday in Washington, D.C.

Aldan-Pierce, who is also president of DFS Saipan Ltd., told the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs that, without continued access to the Chinese and Russian tourism markets, "the economic future of the CNMI is bleak, if not dead."

Aldan-Pierce said the CNMI's total direct and indirect impact of tourism revenue for fiscal year 2011 through May 2011 is $450.8 million. However, if you take visitors from China and Russia out of that equation, that revenue would drop by 25 percent or to $110.8 million, she said.

And the bleeding wouldn't stop there. Aldan-Pierce said the total number of government jobs supported by tourism revenue this year is 2,180. Without visitors from China and Russia, 15.2 percent or 331 government

See WITHOUT on Page 4

Pula says prevailing wage study key to NMI recovery

Nikolao I. Pula Jr., director of the Office of Insular Affairs, acknowledged the importance of conducting a prevailing wage survey in the CNMI during a House subcommittee hearing on Public Law 111-229. Pula said a prevailing wage study is another important project stakeholders of the Forum of Economic and Labor Development identified during their conference last year.

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Pula

POWER OF READING HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lani Paul Carpio, 60, comfortably reads a magazine about surfing which he said reminds him of his birthplace of Hawaii, at the Bestseller Bookstore in Susupe where he spends time doing what he loves—reading books and magazines—during his days off as a security guard in another business establishment on Saipan.

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DPH: 85 pct. of residents now vaccinated. PAGE 5

Local

Pula: Prevailing wage study key to NMI economic recovery

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In this frame grab, Office of Insular Affairs director Nikolao I Pula Jr. testifies before the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs early Friday morning on Capitol Hill, Washington D.C.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

No less than the director of Office of Insular Affairs acknowledged the importance of conducting a prevailing wage survey in the CNMI.

In his testimony at a House subcommittee hearing on the Public Law 111-229, OIA director Nikolao I Pula Jr. said a prevailing wage study is another important project stakeholders of the Forum of Economic and Labor Development identified during their conference last year.

"A prevailing wage rate is required as part of the procedure for obtaining a foreign labor certification from United States Department of Labor prior to applying for an H nonimmigrant or employment-based permanent immigration status for an alien employee," he told the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs early Friday morning on Capitol Hill, Washington D.C.

He said OIA assistant secretary Tony Babauta has held several discussions with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on how to best address the need for such a prevailing wage survey.

"The assistant secretary and the governor agree that the survey is vital for the CNMI economy's recovery and growth. Both also agree that delay in completing the survey is detrimental to the business community as well as to the efficient implementation of federal administration of immigration in the CNMI. Governor Fitial has submitted a request for funding such a project to the United States Department of Labor and is awaiting its determination," said Pula.

In the meantime, Pula said that preparations are underway both in the government and private sector to undertake the survey with a targeted completion date of September this year.

Currently, Pula said, due to the lack of such a prevailing wage rate in the CNMI, the Department of Labor requires employers to compensate alien employees at the nearest market rate in which the occupational category is utilized.

"In the CNMI's case, this is usually the Guam prevailing wage rate, which is much higher than the wage rate currently paid by most CNMI employers for any worker, alien or otherwise," he said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, meanwhile, said that while he would like U.S. citizens to be employed to the "greatest degree possible and on the best terms that the CNMI economy will allow," he does acknowledge that importance of a prevailing wage survey to companies that want to obtain an employment-based visa for foreign workers.

"The requirement to pay prevailing wages as a minimum is true of most employment-based visa programs involving the U.S. Department of Labor. In addition, the H1B, H1B1, and E3 programs require the employer to pay the prevailing wage or the actual wage paid by the employer to workers with similar skills and qualifications, whichever is higher," said Sablan.

He said these requirements are meant to ensure that that the hiring of a foreign worker will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of U.S. workers comparably employed.

"The new CNMI-only transitional worker rule has not yet been published, but we do know that the previous interim final rule concerning CW workers published on Oct. 27, 2009 did not contain a prevailing wage determination requirement," he said.

Rookie cop drunk during alleged beating of wife

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A rookie police officer who was arrested Saturday night for allegedly beating up his wife outside their residence in Dandan was finally taken to the Superior Court yesterday morning.

Police Officer 1 Gordon Odoshi Seman, 30, was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. His bail was kept at $1,500 cash. He has yet to post bail as of press time yesterday.

Preliminary hearing will be on July 28 at 9am.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo said the court will appoint a private counsel to represent Seman if the Office of Adult Probation determines that he is indigent.

Assistant public defender Richard Miller told the court that their office could not represent Seman due to a possible conflict of interest.

Miller also told the court that since Seman was arrested Saturday night, he should have been taken to court on Monday, not yesterday.

Govendo ordered Seman to stay away from his wife and their children and to obey all local and federal laws.

In a report based on preliminary police investigation, detective Peter A. Aldan stated that Seman's wife had arrived home from work on Saturday at 6:20pm to find her two children crying and Seman sleeping on the couch in the living room. She saw an empty soju bottle in the kitchen and an empty can of beer on the counter.

The wife confronted her husband about his drinking. Seman got mad and allegedly slapped her on the mouth and kicked her on the right thigh. The wife grabbed their children and ran off to a neighbor's house where she called police.

Two responding police officers later spotted Seman in front of Jin Store in Dandan at 10:26pm. They detected a strong odor of alcohol in his breath and saw that Seman could not stand up straight and was losing his balance.

Patrol field supervisor officer Juan Mendiola later arrived at the store and asked Seman why he did not come to work. Seman replied that he called in that he was not coming in because he has a family problem.

Seman allegedly mentioned that he hit his wife. Medics arrived and treated the wife, who refused to be brought to the hospital.

Ex-police sergeant Hillary Tagabuel arrested anew

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Hillary John Tagabuel, a former police sergeant who has a pending criminal case for his alleged involvement in a car insurance scam, was arrested Sunday night on allegations that he beat up his girlfriend at her residence in Koblerville.

Tagabuel, 40, was arrested for assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief. His bail was set at $1,500 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on July 28 at 9am.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that a police officer had responded to the victim's house after receiving a call. The responding officer she saw the victim crying and shaking, the right side of her face swollen and red. Responding medics checked the victim, who complained of pain in the face and neck.

The victim told police that Tagabuel slapped her on the left and right side of her face. He also allegedly ripped the front door's screen, damaging the hinges.

Police officers arrested Tagabuel at 8:23pm on Sunday.

The victim told police that Tagabuel is an abusive person throughout their seven-year relationship. She described him as a very jealous person, obsessed, and controlling. She alleged that he has been verbally, mentally, and physically abusing her.

At yesterday's hearing, assistant public defender Richard Miller told the court that he could not represent Tagabuel as their office is already representing Tagabuel's co-defendant in the pending criminal case.

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo said the court will appoint the same lawyer representing Tagabuel in his pending case.

Govendo ordered the defendant to stay away from the alleged victim.

In June 2008, Tagabuel was among several persons arrested for their alleged involvement in a car insurance scam. The Office of the Attorney General subsequently charged Tagabuel, Yu Jai Feng Cepeda, and Serafin Esperancilla with conspiracy to commit theft by deception. The three allegedly falsified information about car crashes to obtain money from insurance companies.

The jury trial for Tagabuel in the insurance scam case will be on Aug. 1, 2011.

MARK RABAGO

INTERIOR FUNDING
Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta, left, and acting governor Eloy S. Inos sign on July 14 two documents: the first one giving the islands $1.26 million to explore the potential of geothermal energy; and the second, a $1 million grant to, among other things, resuscitate the ailing economy.

Rota delegation chair wants update on island's casino operations

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) has asked the Rota Gaming Commission for an update on the operations of Nature Treasure Islands and Rota Resort.

In a July 8 letter to Rota Gaming Commission chair Laura Manglona, Ayuyu requested that ne given information on the "timelines, contracts, and other relevant information" on the two properties.

The chair of the Rota Legislative Delegation said "especially during these tough economic times, it is important for us to apply stringent measures to all government activities."

Ayuyu said Manglona's report should include the plan of action that the Rota Gaming Commission has regarding the two properties, adding that once the delegation received the necessary information, "the leadership will be better able to pursue the best course of action for both properties and the island of Rota."

The delegation chair also asked Manglona for the Rota Gaming Commission's position on the Saipan casino bill. " I have previously requested this from the commission, but have yet to receive it. As this is a timely topic, I would like to get the commission's position on the Saipan casino [bill] as soon as possible."

Nature Treasure Island has been temporarily closed since March 25 but may reopen if and when it successfully gets clients from Japan, Guam, and Saipan, among other things.

The casino operation, which is at the Rota Hotel, is the only holder of a license to operate a casino on Rota, albeit a temporary one at this time.

Nature Treasure Island Casino had expected a surge of players scheduled in March and April but because of the March 11 Japan quake and tsunami, their expected casino players from Japan either postponed or cancelled their trip to Rota. A charter flight from Japan to Rota was also cancelled after the Japan disasters.

A second group of investors-SNM Corp., which owns Rota Resort and Country Club, has also paid the $150,000 investigation fee to the Rota Casino Gaming Commission as part of their application for a license to operate a casino.

Unlike Saipan voters, Rota and Tinian voters approved casino gambling on their islands. ***(Mark Rabago)***

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Island countries face daunting mapping challenges

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (Vanuatu Daily Post) - Pacific Island countries and territories are challenged by the necessity to update their maps to reflect the current day realities.

"Countries are utilizing several mapping systems, or projections, in parallel," explained Dr. Wolf Forstreuter, SOPAC's Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems specialist. SOPAC is the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

"For example, road networks river systems, coastlines, contour lines and village locations are available on different maps. Often each has different accuracy and a different projection. They do not overlay or fit one on top of the other," continued Forstreuter.

Forstreuter said that discrepancies are the result of several factors: the mapping carried out by the first surveyors at the end of the 19th century; tectonic shift, which contributes to islands shifting position; legal challenges associated with using old maps, and the need for Lands Departments to move to the use of remote sensing data and new software.

By the end of the 19th century, surveyors had already developed grid systems covering large parts of Europe. When the first mapping of island countries took place, a grid system was created for each island that had no reference point to any existing maps, as there were no orientation points to link to another point of an existing mapping system.

"Often legal ownership is based on these old maps and old systems," said Forstreuter.

Forstreuter further explained that islands are not stable, but are moving, due to two different reasons. The first reason is when there is tectonic shift, an effect that is visible in Tonga, or the very recent case of Japan when the whole country shifted two metres within a few hours. Secondly, the coastal ocean currents can drift sand away from one side of a small island and settle it on another side.

"Today, previously existing land parcels on one side of an island may be in the ocean, while on the other side new land exists without ownership. Often Lands Departments deal with maps where land parcels do not fit the actual river system, or with maps where the island has drifted away," said Forstreuter.

"To address these land shifts and find a permanent solution presents an enormous challenge, not to mention workload, for countries' Lands Departments.

"Land ownership and land parcel boundaries have high legal and cultural value in Pacific Island Countries and Territories. Once maps have been stamped and declared legal, they remain in force, even if details, such as river systems, are incorrectly marked," said Forstreuter.

A related issue in many Pacific Island Countries and Territories is that Global Positioning Systems (GPS) equipment is not recognized as legal surveying equipment, "…despite the accuracy that satellite technology makes available. Consequently, surveys have to be carried out in traditional ways, supported by the analysis of aerial photography," explained Forstreuter.

Traditionally, Lands Departments have been the only source of mapping in a country, used by other government departments such as Forestry, or utility organizations such as an electricity companies.

Forstreuter said that since the year 2000, space borne image data, or satellite imagery, has been available for mapping at a scale of 1:10,000, and that GIS and image data software have become so user friendly that it is not necessary to have a background in surveying to use these.

Satellite sensors work in way similar to a photocopier, so that the image is not distorted. The user can map on the computer screen immediately using satellite information and images.

In the past there has been the tendency for donor assistance to countries' Lands Departments to reinforce old technology rather than establish facilities for the analysis of space borne image data.

Therefore other departments and organizations have created their own faster and more efficient mapping facilities, using the new technologies.

To ensure that all surveys carried out using GIS software, image analysis software and GPS related software work properly the projection of a country using the international grid needs to be installed.

Forstreuter said that international grids might be difficult to apply to low-lying Pacific Island Countries and Territories as sea levels follow locational gravity, not an idealized worldwide ellipsoid. In these cases the height indicated on the map is not related to mean sea level. However, this can be overcome with correct geodetic knowledge, as has taken place in Tonga and Samoa, which now have new grid systems.

Resource-rich Pacific economies to see stout growth in 2011: ADB

The resource-rich regions of the Pacific may continue strong expansion this year, while growth in the rest of the region is likely to remain subdued, a report by the Asian Development Bank showed Monday.

The Pacific region is expected to grow 6.4 percent in 2011 and in 2012, growth may moderate to 5.5 percent, ADB said in its latest edition of the *Pacific Economic Monitor*.

The petroleum exporting economies of Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste are expected to grow by 8.5 percent and 10 percent respectively, boosted by the high international price of petroleum, and increased investment and employment associated with the construction phase of resource extraction.

ADB predicts 7.5 percent growth in Solomon Islands in 2011, driven by increased logging and the resumption of gold mining in the country. Meanwhile, the rest of the region, including 11 economies, are expected to experience much lower GDP growth.

ADB's Pacific Department director general Robert Wihtol said the long-term growth outlook for the Pacific region as a whole is very modest. If this trend continues, the region risks falling further behind the dynamic economies of developing Asia, resulting in a widening gap in incomes in the two regions.

The official suggested that the Pacific governments should focus on investing in infrastructure, improving education, and providing an enabling business environment to avoid this scenario.

For the region as a whole, inflation is predicted at 8.4 percent in 2011, but will ease to 5.9 percent in 2012 as commodity prices stabilize. ***(RTTNews)***

REUNIFICATION

From Page 1

sue like reunification.

"What happens to the Covenant that the people of the Northern Mariana Islands negotiated with the United States and that has served us well for a generation? And when do the two Republican governors plan to include the public and other local leaders in their private talks?" he asked.

Not much thought

Personally, Sablan said, he hasn't given reunification that much thought, preferring instead to focus on what he can do right now to improve the lives of the people of the Commonwealth.

"Getting food stamp benefits up to the national level and making sure the 500 people who are waitlisted get help is one of the things we need to do right now," he said.

The delegate said this week the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, of which he is a member, is having a hearing on federal nutrition programs.

"I will be making the case for including the Northern Marianas in the national food stamp program. And I will continue to encourage Governor Fitial to commit the CNMI to being in the national program, instead of holding on to the underfunded, 'food stamps lite' deal that the CNMI negotiates every year with the Agriculture Department. Even under the block grant arrangement we presently have, I will work hard to see an increase in the amount the Commonwealth receives for the fiscal year 2012 beginning in October, 2011," he said.

Sablan said it is unfair that people in the CNMI continue to get an average of $88 a month, while food stamp recipients in Guam get an average of $218.

"It certainly isn't right that we have families that need food stamps, families that are hungry, who can't get help, because the program the Commonwealth government has been negotiating is so unfair," he said.

Sablan added that improving the food stamp program is good for business in the Commonwealth.

"If we get into the national program, we're going to put another $12 to $24 million into our local economy. Given the continuing decline in GDP, which was announced last week, we need to be working to put more money into the hands of consumers to spend locally," he said.

The delegate said increasing consumption will also mean more goods being shipped to the CNMI and increasing the volume of goods could help lower shipping costs to the islands.

"So, again, speculating about reunification is not how I want to spend my time right now. I am going to stay focused on more pressing matters to help our people today," said Sablan.

Residual effect from military buildup?

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, meanwhile, said he doesn't see the CNMI benefiting from the U.S. military buildup in Guam if it does reunify with the U.S. territory.

"You've got the economies of scale issue and that can play a factor. But that all depends on how you look at the U.S. military buildup. A lot of it is concentrated in Guam and I don't know if that will change if, in fact, Guam and the Northern Marianas will be politically united," he said. "The military economy is a site-specific effort and right now the economics is the same. We support Guam based on economic needs and vice versa. I don't know if a unified Marianas would necessarily allow for that advantage."

Inos said what's clear is that the debate about CNMI-Guam reunification is still in its formative stage

"It's an issue of plurality and majority. I hope we don't look at it that way but maybe look at it from the point of what's best for the CNMI and Guam if that issue would move forward. We should all look at synergy and it's kind of awkward we call ourselves up here Northern Marianas and then kind of just like leave Guam out. This whole idea of Guam and the CNMI should be discussed more throughout the community—both Guam and Saipan. But again it's something that's on the table. Both here and at the Legislature and the Guam legislature," he said.

WITHOUT

From Page 1

jobs would have been lost, she said.

Meanwhile, the total number of private sector jobs supported by tourism revenue this year is 2,437. Again, without visitors from China and Russia, Aldan-Pierce said that 15.2 percent or 370 of those jobs would have been eliminated.

"Clearly, to enact a Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program without allowing the CNMI access to visitors from China and Russia would have a detrimental and long-standing effect on the economy and livelihood of the people and would be contrary to the intent of the CNRA [Consolidated Natural Resources Act]," she said.

Stop-gap measure

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, meanwhile, said the current parole authority extended by Department Homeland Security in lieu of the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program is only a stop-gap measure. DHS should normalize the system with a concrete plan that will fulfill the intent of Public Law 110-229 to "expand tourism," he said.

"When DHS published rules on the visa waiver program created by 110-229, Russia and China were excluded. But tourism from these countries was growing, and the Northern Marianas needed visitors. So we convinced [DHS] Secretary [Janet] Napolitano to use her parole authority to keep Russians and Chinese coming to the Northern Marianas. That helped. But it's only a stop-gap. It can be revoked at any time. So this parole system does not encourage new investment in the Russian and Chinese markets," he said in his welcome address during Friday's public hearing.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, for his part, lamented DHS' decision to block the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program and, like Sablan, said that the agency's parole authority is only temporary.

"We understand that the Department of State has refused, on policy grounds, to implement what has been mandated by Congress. Our tourist industry—the principal economic basis for our economy—has been seriously hurt. While we appreciate the efforts of Secretary Napolitano to give us a temporary parole system, such a system simply does not allow for necessary continued investments in growing these markets due to the fact that the program can be halted without notice," he said in his testimony.

Office of Insular Affairs director Nikolao I Pula Jr. said that while immigration transition in the CNMI has encountered a number of issues that require resolution, this has not deterred the federal government from continuing to seek a smooth transition.

"We realize that change is difficult, but strongly believe that the federal administration of immigration in the CNMI will bring about higher security for the Marianas archipelago as well as an improved environment for business and provide economic opportunities to the people of the CNMI," he said in his testimony.

DPH: 85 pct. of community members now vaccinated

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

About 85 percent of island residents have already been vaccinated against the flu since the campaign started in January this year, according to a senior health official yesterday.

Warren F. Villagomez, the Department of Public Health's hospital preparedness office director, said the estimate uses a base rate of about 30,000 people from the last census for the Commonwealth.

He described the result as a big success for the campaign against flu. Majority of those vaccinated are school-aged children and those in the vulnerable population—those with chronic disease, the elderly, and pregnant women.

Villagomez said the department has enough doses of flu vaccines to cover the non-vaccinated population until the end of the year.

Villagomez

The CNMI received in March this year 1,500 doses donated by the Hawaii Pacific Command Tripler Army Medical Center. The donation was intended to augment the potential shortfall of the available flu vaccines on island.

Saipan Tribune learned that DPH last received its shipment of flu vaccines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in November last year. The department has had a total of 18,000 doses since November.

Early this year, DPH saw a drastic increase in the number of patients with flu-like symptoms, reaching about 300 cases each month. Villagomez said the number significantly went down to about less than a hundred per month, with zero admissions to the hospital's emergency room.

Villagomez attributed the remarkable decline to the department's effective campaign, which used all forms of media to ensure that community members were informed about how to avoid the flu. This summer, the agency participated in youth camps to provide health and prevention knowledge to children.

Suit over non-disclosure of Census hiring junked

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman dismissed yesterday a lawsuit filed by a couple against four then and current CNMI government officials for allegedly refusing to disclose public records relating to the recruitment and hiring for the 2010 CNMI Census.

Wiseman ruled that the lawsuit filed by Joaquin S. Torres and his wife, Diana Q. Verdejo, fails to satisfy NMI Rules of Civil Procedure, which requires each statement of a pleading to be "simple, concise, and direct."

"A number of paragraphs in the complaint include redundant material, conclusory allegations, argument, and/or citations to case law," Wiseman said.

Generally, Wiseman said, the court would strike these paragraphs for failing to adhere to the Rules.

However, because Torres and Verdejo filed the case without a lawyer, the court will instead dismiss the lawsuit and allow the couple one more chance to file a second amended complaint to comply with the court's order.

Wiseman also granted a motion to substitute named five Commonwealth employees as defendants for the Commonwealth.

"A suit against a government employee in his/her official capacity is a suit against the government," Wiseman said, citing precedent.

Torres and Verdejo are suing then Commerce secretary Michael Ada, his then deputy, Sixto Igisomar; special assistant for administration Esther Fleming, and special assistant for personnel matters Matilde Rosario.

In addition, the couple named as defendants the Department of Commerce, Office of the Special Assistant for Administration, Office of the Special Assistant for Personnel, Office of Personnel Management, and the Pre-Selection Panel/Committee.

In their lawsuit, the couple alleged that Ada failed to respond to their request for documents and refused to provide them the public records they were asking for.

The couple said that Igisomar, Fleming, and Rosario either did not respond or had claimed that the records were either not public documents or are exempt from disclosure under the Open Government Act.

In September 2009, Verdejo applied for the position of executive assistant, administrative assistant, and supervisor in response to an ad for 14 positions with the CNMI Census Local Office. She was not selected for any of these positions.

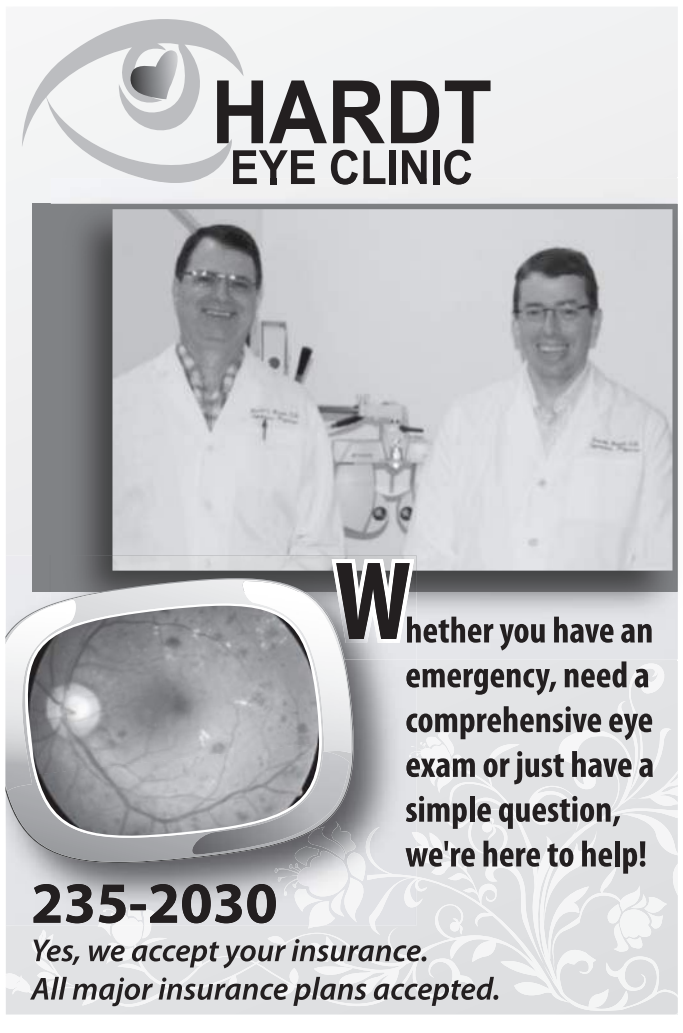
The couple asked Ada for documents that detail how Commerce filled all 14 positions. Ada, however, allegedly denied them access to these records.

The defendants, through assistant attorney general David Lochabay, moved to dismiss the lawsuit, saying the defendants are not proper parties to this suit. He also argued that Torres and Verdejo failed to plead a short and plain statement of their claim.

Wiseman said that if the court were to force each of the named individuals to hire separate attorneys to defend themselves, this would be a complete waste of judicial resources because the real party in interest is ultimately the Commonwealth.

Wiseman said that the Commonwealth should be substituted in the place of the defendants.

For the same reasons, the judge ruled that the government agencies named as defendants have no power to sue and be sued and that they shall be substituted with the Commonwealth.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Friday, July 22, 2011 • 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Smiling Cove Marina, Delta Weighing Station
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or send inquiries to ediaz@mymarianas.com or ftudela@mymarianas.com

Coast Guard's Sparks bids goodbye to NMI, Guam

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration, through the Commonwealth Ports Authority, hosted a farewell ceremony Monday night for U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Thomas Sparks, who is bidding the Northern Marianas and Guam goodbye after three years of service.

Sparks has been named the U.S. Coast Guard liaison officer in the Pacific Command and will be stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii next month. He will be replaced by Capt. Casey White, who will assume the post later this month.

The outgoing official described his three-year service in the Marianas region as a wonderful experience and among the highlights of his career. Sparks was assigned here from 2008 through 2011.

In a ceremony at the Saipan seaport Monday night, Sparks was presented plaques of appreciation by the ports authority and its board, as well as from other stakeholders.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, fourth from left, presents U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Thomas Sparks, fifth from left, with a souvenir shirt from ports authority employees and a plaque of appreciation for his three-year service to the Commonwealth. Sparks was honored during a farewell ceremony at the seaport Monday night. Others in photo are ports authority officials.

In his remarks, acting governor Eloy Inos recognized Sparks for his invaluable maritime safety assistance and support to the CNMI.

Sparks later told Saipan Tribune that the two major challenges facing the Coast Guard throughout his three-year term were the tyranny of time and distance. Resources and the lack of enough tools to provide better service to the Commonwealth were also among the hindrances.

Saipan Tribune learned that the U.S. Coast Guard has about 275 personnel in active duty and reservists in Guam. Of that number, only four are assigned to the CNMI. The Coast Guard has no operational station on the island.

Sparks said it has always been his desire to bring more personnel and resources to CNMI but this was affected by funding woes at the national level. Despite these limited services to CNMI, Sparks believes the Coast Guard is doing its job well in the Commonwealth.

Inos also announced that he or Gov. Benigno Fitial will grace the special farewell rites for Sparks in Guam on June 26.

"We don't have regular operational unit here all the time, but we get them here as often as we can. I am convinced that we've done our best to assist the CNMI," he said, adding that the Coast Guard has also broken a number of "big cases" relating to illegal fishing in the waters of the Northern Marianas.

He is confident that his successor, Capt. Casey White will continue to provide better service to both Guam and CNMI.

"We have a saying in the Coast Guard: 'You can't fix everything but you can leave better than you think.' I am hoping that she will take that to heart. There's a need to get more people, more assets, and more money in our budget because I think this is a growth area for the Coast Guard. It's an area that needs more attention," he added.

Among those at the farewell gathering were Inos, CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, CPA board member Fermin Sakisat, ports manager MaryAnn Lizama, and employees of the ports authority and its stakeholders.

Dr. LaMar is new medical director for DPH

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After more than six months of searching for a new medical director, the Department of Public Health has finally found someone to take over the post left vacant by Dr. Shirish Balachandra.

John Tagabuel, deputy secretary for public health administration, confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Dr. Dan LaMar was appointed to position this week.

"The paperwork for the new medical director for the Division of Public Health has been finalized and Dr. Dan LaMar is now working," said Tagabuel.

LaMar's responsibilities will include overseeing all public health programs, majority of which are funded by the federal government.

LaMar succeeded Balachandra, whose contract was not renewed in January. The former medical director, along with former CHC nursing director April Ricotta, has relocated after their departure from the hospital. Balachandra served the position from October 2010 to January 2011.

Balachandra succeeded Dr. Richard Brostrom, who had resigned after accepting a medical job in Hawaii.

According to Tagabuel, Dr. LaMar has been working in the CNMI since early 1990s. He started in the CNMI public sector at the Commonwealth Health Center and Rota Health Center before joining the private sector on Saipan.

Tagabuel said that LaMar is a certified internal medicine physician who got his medical license in Oregon.

Tagabuel earlier said that the medical director plays a vital role in the discussion, planning, and implementation of the division's programs. He said they were targeting someone from outside the hospital so as not to affect the already limited number of physicians at CHC.

As of May 2011, CHC had 24 doctors, including short-term hires.

Man beats up friend with baton

A man allegedly told his friend to wait at his house in Dandan on Saturday night as he was buying "ice" but then returned and beat up his pal with a baton.

Prisco Ongrung, 38, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery. Bail was set at $6,000 cash. He had a bail hearing yesterday afternoon in the Superior Court.

Detective Roque K. Camacho stated in his report that a police officer had responded Saturday night to a call about a disturbance at a store in Dandan

Camacho said the victim, Jordan Ongklungel, told police that Prisco had called him up at 6:30pm to come to his house in Dandan.

When Ongklungel arrived at Prisco's house, Prisco borrowed $10 from him and told him to wait as he was going to buy "ice" from a friend.

Prisco returned at 8pm. Ongklungel asked Prisco for his share in the sale of a car. Prisco told him to be patient as the "supplier" was coming with the "ice." Ongklungel told him that he is not there to smoke "ice" but to get his share of the money from the car's sale.

Prisco got mad and allegedly punched the victim on the left cheek. When the victim walked over to his car, Prisco came from behind and hit Ongklungel on the left wrist with a baton. He then allegedly continued hitting the victim with the baton on the head and back.

When the victim fell to the ground, Prisco kicked him. The victim's 4-year-old son, who was in the car, saw the beating and was crying.

Prisco's wife came and pulled him away from Ongklungel. The victim managed to get up and drive to a store where he called the police. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **July 20**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **July 20**.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **July 20**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service, Please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.

IT&E Life in Motion

To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:

SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laulau/Tinian/Rota Office– up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

MEETING OF ALL LIVESTOCK GROWERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PEOPLE

TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING MEAT PROCESSING OPERATION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20TH AT 5:30 P.M.

MEETING AT NORTHERN MARIANAS TRADE INSTITUTE, LOWER BASE

FOR DIRECTION: CALL 235-6684 OR 287-3007

AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on Thursday, July 21, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. **PRELIMARY MATTERS**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes: April 12, 2011, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
      April 19, 2011, Special Board Meeting Minutes

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

III. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
   a. Personnel & Budget
   b. Update - Telephone System
   c. Update - Travel Policy

IV. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**
   a. CDBG Status Reports
   b. PY 2011 CDBG Proposals

V. **MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAM**
   a. Loan Status Reports by Programs / Delinquency & Litigation Report
   b. Buy-back RD Loans Status Report
   c. NSP Status Report
   d. Lease-To-Own of NMHC Properties
   e. REO Purchase
   f. MPLT Accounts at BoH Update
   g. BankPacific Status Report
   h. HOME Loans for Approval
   i. USDA RD new MOU
   j. Other Loan Matters

VI. **PROGRAM & HOUSING**
   a. Section 8 New Construction Program: Liyo Status Report
   b. Section 8 Status Reports by Location: Saipan/Tinian/Rota
   c. Voucher Program Status Report by Location: Saipan/Tinian/Rota

VII. **FIELD OFFICE REPORTS**
   a. Tinian
   b. Rota

VIII. **FISCAL AFFAIRS**
   a. Fiscal Year 2008 & 2009 Audited Financial Statement Status
   b. NMHC Current Fiscal Year Financial Statement: Funds Availability & Cash Forecast Report as of June 30, 2011
   c. Amended Budget for FY 2012
   d. Employees Accounts Receivable Status Report
   e. BoH Reserve Account
   f. Outstanding Receivable for BoH Non-MPLT and MPLT Accounts
   g. HUD Grants Status Report

IX. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

X. **OTHER MATTERS**
   a. LIHTC Status Report
   b. LIHTC Evaluations

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/S/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

Inos wary about increasing port, airport fees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos has vowed to fully review a proposal to increase airport and seaport charges but said the move may not be a good idea in this time of economic uncertainties.

House Bill 17-199, authored by Rep. Ray Yumul, wants to impose a fee of up to $25 on passengers landing in CNMI airports and seaports to generate more than $3 million that will be used to restore the timely payroll and 80 work hours of government employees.

The bill authorizes CPA to impose and collect a $6.50 charge on each airline passenger, a $5 document charge for those with cargo, and $25 on consignees for "consolidated consignments" of cargo. Interest for late payees is also being proposed, among others.

Saipan Tribune learned that CPA last increased seaport rates and charges in February 2009; airport fees were adjusted in 2008.

Inos said the administration has yet to be fully informed about the specifics of the bill, but he promised that the administration will do a comprehensive assessment to determine if the measure will positively impact the islands.

"I am not yet privy to the specifics of the bill, but I certainly would like to look at it. We would like to see the rationale behind the legislation. We have to understand that the Commonwealth Ports Authority has some bond issues that it has to follow through by way of revenue to service these bonds," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* Monday night.

Inos said it is important to see if the recommended charges are reasonable enough and would not add to the burden of businesses and residents. At the same time, the position of the ports authority and its board is vital in making a final decision on the matter, he added.

"It's on the table now and the right thing to do would be to deliberate on it and we would like to see that the ports authority is heavily involved in all the discussions as well as other stakeholders," said Inos.

In an interview with CPA comptroller Derek Sasamoto, he expressed the agency's strong opposition to any rate hike proposal for both airport and seaport charges, saying the idea will not only create grave impact to the entire economy but would also conflict with the agency's regulations and policies.

CPA regulations and by-laws dictate that all revenue generated by the ports authority must solely be used by the agency. Yumul's bill proposes to divert CPA revenue to the general fund.

Despite the financial problem of CPA, its board opted to implement cost-cutting measures such as conserving energy and freezing hiring and travels just so it could maintain the 80-hour work schedule of its 198 employees. CPA also enforced an aggressive collection effort to generate needed funds for its operation.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Story telling and traditional navigation this Saturday

The Inetnon Amot yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw is offering story telling and traditional navigation to all interested Chamorros and Carolinians on Saturday, July 23, 2011, at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Centers Headquarters at 1213 Capitol Hill Rd., which is across from the CNMI Workforce Investment Agency and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office.

Story telling starts at 9:30am and ends around noon. Story telling and traditional navigation will be mostly in Chamorro and Carolinian. For more information, call 322-0278. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of 1997 get-together

The MHS Class of 1997 will have lunch gathering on July 23, 2011, Saturday, at Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, from 5pm to 8pm. Your family is welcome to join! ***(PR)***

Public hearing cancelled

The Senate Standing Committee on Resources Economic Development and Programs has postponed the following scheduled public hearing until further notice: July 20, 2011, 6pm at Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe. ***(PR)***

WSR registration schedule

The last week of William S. Reyes Elementary School's open registration will be the week of July 18-22, 2011. We encourage parents and guardians of returning and new students to register their children. Registration form is available at the school's main office between the hours of 8am and 4pm. Provide copies of updated health certificate, student insurance or Medicaid, and birth certificate. For new students, provide a copy of official student transcript or report card from the previous school. After this week, registration will be closed. Call 237-3542 for inquiries. ***(PR)***

Dog licensing ongoing

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan's "Dog Tag License Registration" is ongoing until July 22. Registration will take place at the Mayor of Saipan compound in Chalan Kanoa (behind the post office) from 9am to 4pm (open during lunch hours).

Pet owners are advised to first pay the fees at either the CNMI Treasury on Capital Hill, Superior Court in Susupe, or Tax and Revenue in Dandan then proceed to the registration site. Applications are available at the cashiers. Fill out the application per dog to expedite the process. ***(PR)***

Veterans employment coordinator on Rota

Guam Department of Labor Disable Veterans Outreach Program coordinator Jackie Nguyen will be conducting an employment information workshop today, July 20, on Rota, 9am-4pm at the WIA Office. Nguyen will also be available to meet with veterans and family members individually to answer questions. For further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/ Veterans affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Veterans outreach on July 25-29

Tina San Agustin, Federal Department of Veterans Affairs Legal Administrative Specialist from Guam and the Northern Marian Islands, will be on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota from July 25 to 29 for Veterans Outreach on Veterans Federal Benefits.

She will be also be entertaining veterans questions and assist with claims. Agustin's schedule is a follows:

July 25, 8:30am-4:30pm on Rota at the WIA office

July 26-27, 8:30-4:30 on Tinian at the Tinian Municipal Council's office

July 28-29, 8:30-4:30 on Saipan at the Military/ Veterans Affairs office on Capitol Hill, building 1364.

Hopwood grade 6 and 7 open registration

The open registration for seventh and eighth grade levels of Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Jr. High School is ongoing until July 29. Parents and guardians of enrolling students should provide the school with all the necessary documents to avoid any problem in the processing of their child's enrollment. Any new or transfer students must also provide proper documents to prevent any delay in their processing. For more information, contact the school at 237-3422/3395/3421. ***(PR)***

Fitial holds private audience with Chinese governors

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Wang Sanyun (Anhui Province) presents the customary Chinese friendship gift to Gov. Fitial (R-MP) at the conclusion of their meeting regarding investing in the CNMI.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah—Following the historic U.S.-China Governors Forum held Friday afternoon as part of the 2011 National Governors Association's annual meeting, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial (R-MP) held three separate one-on-one meetings with key provincial leaders from China.

The forum served as a unique peer-to-peer exchange between U.S. and Chinese governors established to strengthen a subnational dialogue between the two countries and will focus on topics of mutual interest.

Li Xiaolin, vice president of The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, led the Chinese delegation in an in-depth dialogue with the governors from all across America. Li and the attending provincial governors highlighted the pressing need to promote a balance of trade between the world's two largest market countries. She placed considerable emphasis on the upholding mutual trust and expanding trade cooperation to further grow the countries' economies.

As part of the gubernatorial partnership established through the NGA, the Chinese delegation is expecting to receive the American governors in Beijing sometime in October. Li hinted that the Beijing meeting will showcase the economic opportunities that China can offer to the United States.

Recognizing the importance of China's influence in the world economy, Fitial had pre-arranged exclusive audiences with members of the Chinese delegation to the NGA annual meeting.

On Saturday afternoon, Fitial met separately with Li, Gov. Luo Huining (Qinghai Province), and Gov. Wang Sanyun (Anhui Province). During the one-to-one meetings, Fitial pitched the Commonwealth's rich history and the islands' pristine beauty known to captivate the hearts of its primary tourism markets in Asia. The governor also shared the CNMI's current economic challenges and sought the assistance of the Chinese leaders to engage in meaningful trade partnerships aimed at reinvigorating the economy and putting the CNMI people back on the road to prosperity. He also touted the attractive tax structure in the CNMI as an added incentive for large scale investors.

Luo and Mayor Mao Xiaobing lauded the Fitial administration's efforts to grow the Commonwealth's economy even in the midst of its current economic challenges. Luo, whose province boasts of an abundance of available human resources, noted that he will look into assembling a team to conduct an official visit to the CNMI.

For his part, Wang expressed considerable interest in exploring tourism opportunities between the NMI and his province of Anhui. Wang also would consider the Commonwealth as a viable location for the province's plans to expand its primary industries to include manufacturing of information technology devices and home appliances. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Pale Eric to speak at Humanities Council fundraiser

Pale Eric Forbes of Guam will be the featured speaker at the NMI Council for the Humanities 20th anniversary fundraiser to be held at the Pacific Islands Club on the evening of Aug. 12.

In his special remarks titled "I Korason un Mestisun Amerikano" ("The Heart of a Mixed Chamorro-American"), Pale Eric will reflect on the importance of humanities work from a personal perspective and the significant role the humanities play in understanding and preserving Marianas, Micronesian, and Pacific cultural identities.

Forbes

Pale Eric is a Catholic priest and noted humanities scholar who over the past two decades has researched Marianas history in archives around the world.

He has authored several books on Church history in the Mariana Islands and also writes a Chamorro cultural blog at paleric.blogspot.com.

Many people in the CNMI know Pale Eric from his three-year assignment as a parish priest on Saipan in the early 1990s.

In addition to Pale Eric's remarks, the fundraiser will feature a delicious summer cocktail menu, live island music, and an auction of art and photography produced by local artists.

Guests will also have the chance to win thousands of dollars in raffle prizes, including a round-trip ticket to Japan from Delta Air Lines, two round-trip tickets to Hong Kong from Fly Guam, and a weekend getaway at the Pacific Islands Club.

Tickets for the Council event are available at the Council office in Springs Plaza on Middle Road and from Council board members.

For more information, call 235-4785 or visit the Council website at www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

Festival held for increasingly popular ukulele

HONOLULU (AP)—When Roy Sakuma first rounded up ukulele players for a festival at a Waikiki Park, he gathered 50 musicians and had an audience of 100.

This year, some four decades later, 900 people strummed and plucked their wooden four-string instruments in front of several thousand people lounging on benches and under tents on a sunny day at Kapiolani Park.

"That sweetness and charm of this instrument, just attracts you," said Sakuma, on the sidelines of the 41st Annual Ukulele Festival on Sunday.

The players ranged from novice five-year-olds attending Sakuma's ukulele schools on Oahu to stars like Jake Shimabukuro, who first performed at the event as a child decades ago.

The musicians were also international, including artists from Thailand, Italy, South Korea, and the U.S. mainland.

Sakuma said many people have long failed to take the ukulele seriously because they thought it was a toy. But he said that's changing as more people encounter it.

Mainstream artists, like Eddie Vedder, the leader singer of the band Pearl Jam, have taken up it up. Vedder was recently been on tour to promote his solo album, "Ukulele Songs."

Shimabukuro, who is in Hawaii only briefly between U.S. mainland and Japanese tours, said Internet sites like the video sharing service YouTube are helping spread the popularity of the kulele.

"It's so easy to watch and copy, and you can learn right away," he said.

He also attributes the instrument's appeal to its sound, which he said resembles children laughing.

"When people hear that it makes them feel young, it makes them feel like a kid," he said. "That's wonderful because it brings a different type of joy to you and that joy is infectious."

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 20, 2000

Cleanup of US military dumpsites pushed

With the scheduled emergency removal of polychlorinated biphenyl contamination in Cemetery no. 2 next month, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should begin planning for the cleanup of other military dumpsites in Tanapag, according to Rep. Dino M. Jones, chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Judiciary and Governmental Affairs. The abandoned military dumpsite in Upper Tanapag needs immediate attention because it is near a water tank in the village. Mr. Jones said more than 50 oil tanks which were used during the war were believed to have contaminated the water system in Tanapag. The legislator also wants a copy of the cleanup report conducted by the Army Corps in New Jersey using the same technology, the low indirect thermal desorption process.

MVA tourism office in Hong Kong proposed

Marianas Visitors Authority Board Chair Dave M. Sablan yesterday said he will push for the establishment of the tourism agency's representative office in Hong Kong during a board meeting next month to prepare for the expected arrival of visitors from China. Despite the restrictions imposed by the Department of Labor and Immigration on the entry of visitors from mainland China, Mr. Sablan is still optimistic that the issue will be resolved soon. If setting up a representative office is not financially feasible, MVA may just hire a company that will carry out the promotional campaign of the CNMI in Hong Kong, he added.

July 20, 2001

Enron wants power plant contract done by August

Enron International Mariana Power, Inc. does not only maintain communication with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, it also wants the contract for the Saipan power plant project sealed soon. This was learned from Rep. Rosiky Camacho, who disclosed that the company expects a contract concluded before the end of August. Enron backed out from the 60-megawatt Saipan power plant project, soon after it won the bidding for the multi-million-dollar contract. Camacho, in a way, corroborates reports that Enron has been sending feelers to the CUC, indicating its intention to come back and reclaim award of the project contract from which it withdrew last April.

Govt toils for 'workable' FY02 budget

"The governor was very frank—the money is not there." And with that, Sen. Edward U. Maratita of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee set the backdrop and the tone on which upcoming deliberations on the 2002 budget will play out. Next year's spending package, amounting to $233.84 million, was the focus in yesterday's meeting between Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and the fiscal committees of both houses of Congress. Sen. Edward Maratita, chairman of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, said that, together with Tenorio and Rep. Antonio M. Camacho, chairman of the House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee, they went over the 2002 budget and the available resources.

July 20, 2004

Prison appropriation bill becomes law

Gov. Juan N. Babauta yesterday signed into law a bill that appropriates some $3.9 million substantially to ensure the completion of the Saipan prison project this year. Telesource CNMI Inc., the contractor responsible for the new prison facility's construction, said the project is nearing completion, adding that the Department of Public Works has been paying it on time in the past several months. Telesource president and chief executive officer K.J. Semikian said the project could be fully completed by Dec. 15. House Bill 14-131, which appropriates $3.9 million in CIP bond interest proceeds for the prison facility's completion and other projects, is now Public Law 14-19.

Camacho: Tough times ahead for DPS

Already faced with a severe shortage of personnel, the Department of Public Safety is expecting a tougher road ahead, according to DPS commissioner Edward C. Camacho. In an interview yesterday, Camacho said the manpower shortage is beginning to take its toll on the available personnel, with responsibilities being spread out among fewer people who are working in longer shifts. "It's tough, and its going to get tougher," he said. "We are starting to feel the work-related stress, [but] we are able to manage and continue to fulfill our public service, even with the limited resources." Camacho said the search for answers to address the issue continues, with the meeting within the department slated for tomorrow. "We are going to meet and find ways to deal with the issue."

Pacific

Pearl Harbor memorial to host Japan tea ceremony

By AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—For the first time, one of the most traditional and symbolic of Japan's art forms, the tea ceremony, is due to be performed at the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor.

The event this week is being planned to honor Americans who died when Japan attacked Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941. Organizers hope it will serve as a gesture of reconciliation between two nations that once fought fiercely, but which now are close allies.

Genshitsu Sen, the 88-year-old grand tea master of the Urasenke School of Tea—which is the largest of the three schools of Japanese tea ceremony—is due to perform the ancient ritual Tuesday morning within the white structure that sits above the sunken battleship.

Two Pearl Harbor survivors are expected to participate, along with the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. Patrick Walsh. Yoshihiko Kamo, the Japanese consul general in Honolulu, is also due to attend.

"This goes a long way, I think, in reminding people that that terrible war is over and these two countries have been at peace and allies for the last 65 years," said Daniel Martinez, the National Park Service's chief historian for the memorial. "What you're seeing is two nations that have come full circle."

During a Japanese tea ceremony, the person performing the ritual will carefully mix hot water with green tea in a ceramic bowl and offer the drink to the assembled guests. The bowls, lacquer tea containers, wooden spoons and other implements used to prepare the tea are often selected to represent the seasons—spring, summer, autumn, and winter.

Sen, who served in the Japanese naval air force during World War II, is the 15th generation of his family to lead Urasenke, which dates to the 1600s. Urasenke is the largest of the three schools of traditional tea ceremony.

The impetus for Tuesday's event is the 60th anniversary of the Urasenke school's Hawaii chapter. Jean Ariyoshi, the wife of former Hawaii Gov. George Ariyoshi, originated the idea of having it at the Arizona memorial.

Martinez said the ceremony was akin to other examples of U.S.-Japanese reconciliation, including when the U.S. ambassador to Japan last year attended an annual ceremony remembering the bombing of Hiroshima.

Martinez said the park service, which runs the memorial and the Pearl Harbor visitors center, has been reaching out to survivors of the attack to explain what is taking place.

"We know this matters to them. After all, it's their history of that time period and we are very, very careful in making sure that they are briefed and informed of the activity," Martinez said.

Some veterans of the war have been able to forgive the attack, but others haven't, Martinez said, and it's important to understand both perspectives.

Sen lived in Hawaii in 1952, when he lectured at and took courses at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He has performed tea ceremony for former First Lady Laura Bush, former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, among other notables.

Cook Islands youth top chlamydia rate in Pacific

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Cook Islands is ranked as the second worst country in the Pacific for chlamydia infection rates among people younger than 25 years.

Chlamydia is a sexually-transmitted disease that can cause blindness.

Ministry of Health figures show almost half of the Cook Islands' youth population is infected with chlamydia.

A 2009 survey of Cook Islanders aged between 15 and 19 years found 49 percent of the teenagers tested were infected with the sexually transmitted disease.

Samoa has the highest rate of chlamydia infection in the South Pacific according to survey data which shows 41 percent of its test subjects were infected.

The figures have been disclosed at the Cook Islands' annual health conference in Rarotonga.

UOG singers to perform in Thailand music fest

UOG

Members of the University Singers harmonize during a performance on July 17. The group travels to Thailand this week to compete in a music festival.

The University of Guam Singers will head to Thailand this week to participate in a music festival.

To prepare for the competition the group gave a bon voyage performance on July 17 at the Nikko Hotel's Crystal Chapel.

After the festival the students will visit Angkor Wat in Cambodia along with other historical sites.

Last year, the University Singers placed silver in their category in a music festival held in the Czech Republic. ***(UOG)***

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Hawaii's largest wind farm to be built on Oahu

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii's largest wind power project is set to be built on Oahu now that a study of its environmental impact has been completed. Boston-based First Wind LLC plans to build the proposed 70-megawatt wind energy project on former sugarcane land on Oahu's North Shore, generating enough power for 14,500 homes. The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported Friday that construction of the Kawailoa Wind Farm is scheduled to begin later this year, and it could begin producing power next year. The additional wind production would significantly expand the state's wind energy output, which currently consists of 112 megawatts of generating capacity on Oahu, Maui and the Big Island.

Solomons plan two new airports by 2013

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—Solomon Islands Government will build two new provincial airports within the next two years. The proposed plan is to build them in North Malaita and Reef Islands, Temotu province. Communication and aviation permanent secretary Jeffery Wickham revealed this yesterday when asked about when groundwork for Reef Island airstrip will begin. Wickham said only two airports are selected for construction within the next two years.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SEMAKAU	019E	7/9 Sat	7/7 Thu	7/7 Thu	7/5 Tue	7/2 Sat	7/15 Fri	7/11 Mon	7/10 Sun	7/3 Sun	7/3 Sun	7/11 Mon	7/15 Fri	7/17 Sun	7/19 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	058E	7/16 Sat	7/14 Thu	7/14 Thu	7/12 Tue	7/9 Sat	7/22 Fri	7/18 Mon	7/17 Sun	7/10 Sun	7/10 Sun	7/18 Mon	7/22 Fri	7/24 Sun	7/26 Tue
MELL SERAYA	002E	7/23 Sat	7/21 Thu	7/21 Thu	7/19 Tue	7/16 Sat	7/29 Fri	7/25 Mon	7/24 Sun	7/17 Sun	7/17 Sun	7/25 Mon	7/29 Fri	7/31 Sun	8/2 Tue
MELL SEMAKAU	020E	7/30 Sat	7/28 Thu	7/28 Thu	7/26 Tue	7/23 Sat	8/5 Fri	8/1 Mon	7/31 Sun	7/24 Sun	7/24 Sun	8/1 Mon	8/5 Fri	8/7 Sun	8/9 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	059E	8/6 Sat	8/4 Thu	8/4 Thu	8/2 Tue	7/30 Sat	8/12 Fri	8/8 Mon	8/7 Sun	7/31 Sun	7/31 Sun	8/8 Mon	8/12 Fri	8/14 Sun	8/16 Tue
MELL SERAYA	003E	8/13 Sat	8/11 Thu	8/11 Thu	8/9 Tue	8/6 Sat	8/19 Fri	8/15 Mon	8/14 Sun	8/7 Sun	8/7 Sun	8/15 Mon	8/19 Fri	8/21 Sun	8/23 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SEMAKAU	019E	7/23 Sat	7/24 Sun	7/24 Sun	7/26 Tue	7/28 Thu	7/30 Sat	7/31 Sun	SKIP	8/5 Fri	8/6 Sat	8/11 Thu	8/30 Tue	8/14 Sun	8/10 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	058E	7/30 Sat	7/31 Sun	7/31 Sun	SKIP	8/3 Wed	8/6 Sat	8/7 Sun	SKIP	8/12 Fri	8/13 Sat	8/18 Thu	9/6 Tue	8/21 Sun	8/17 Wed
MELL SERAYA	002E	8/6 Sat	8/7 Sun	8/7 Sun	8/9 Tue	8/11 Thu	8/13 Sat	8/14 Sun	SKIP	8/19 Fri	8/20 Sat	8/25 Thu	9/13 Tue	8/28 Sun	8/24 Wed
MELL SEMAKAU	020E	8/13 Sat	8/14 Sun	8/14 Sun	SKIP	8/17 Wed	8/20 Sat	8/21 Sun	SKIP	8/26 Fri	8/27 Sat	9/1 Thu	9/20 Tue	9/4 Sun	8/31 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	059E	8/20 Sat	8/21 Sun	8/21 Sun	8/23 Tue	8/25 Thu	8/27 Sat	8/28 Sun	SKIP	9/2 Fri	9/3 Sat	9/8 Thu	9/27 Tue	9/11 Sun	9/7 Wed
MELL SERAYA	003E	8/27 Sat	8/28 Sun	8/28 Sun	SKIP	9/1 Thu	9/3 Sat	9/4 Sun	SKIP	9/9 Fri	9/10 Sat	9/15 Thu	10/4 Tue	9/18 Sun	9/14 Wed

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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The unsung heroes: Civilians in the crossfire

By KERRY C. KACHEJIAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

When the U.S. military deploys overseas and fights, it does not go alone. Thousands of civilians—both government and contractors—accompany the military and stand with them in harm's way.

Who are these relatively unknown civilians? What kind of support do they provide to the military? And why would they risk life and limb to go into a combat zone?

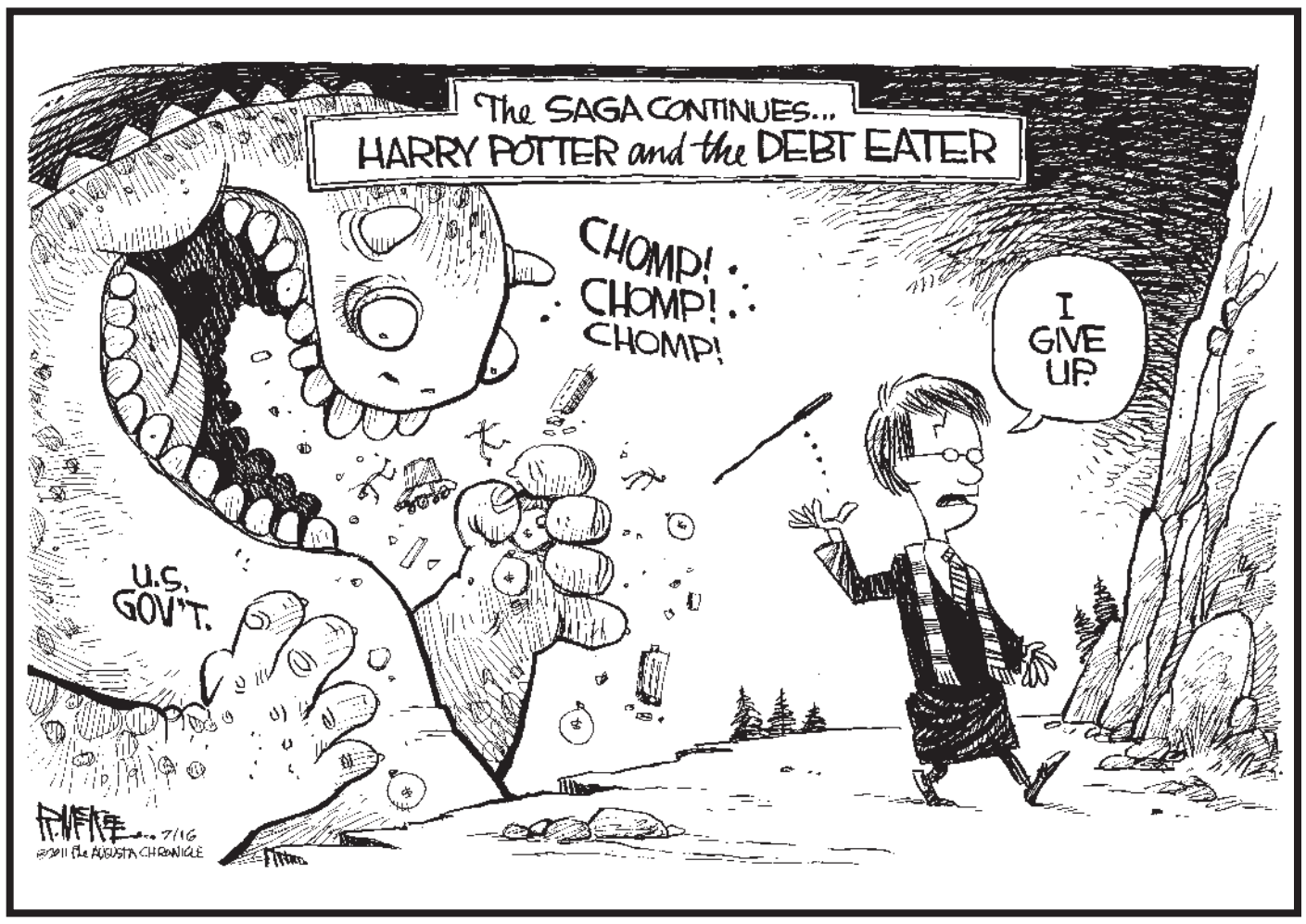
Most civilians are from the Department of Defense and State, but when nations must be rebuilt, employees from USAID, the Department of Justice, Homeland Security, and other Federal Agencies are also deployed with the troops.

Some civilians have no choice; they are considered "mission essential" and must deploy with the military as part of their government job. Many are former military personnel that believe in the mission and understand what the troops need to succeed. Surprisingly, many contractors that support operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are not Americans. They hail from the U.K., India, South Africa, Philippines, Lebanon, Kuwait, Ukraine and many other countries.

Civilians on the battlefield have served in technical and administrative positions such as logisticians, maintenance technicians, program managers, architects, engineers, quality assurance representatives, contracting officers, counsel, and interpreters. Due to a lack of troops, much of the security for hundreds of reconstruction sites in Iraq and Afghanistan has been provided by civilian security forces that protect convoys, escort workers and diplomats, and guard key infrastructure, facilities and work sites. The media has rarely reported the benefits that these security contractors provide to our nation, but the press has been quick to vilify them when they've done something wrong. Hundreds of contractors have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Their actions receive little attention and less credit, particularly if they were not American citizens or U.S. Government employees.

Performing the reconstruction mission in Iraq required a massive mobilization of thousands of contractors and U.S. Government civilians. Putting that many civilians on the battlefield was a huge task and a necessary risk. When the security situation in Iraq deteriorated, the number of security contractors began to proliferate. At one point, Task Force Shield alone had 14,000 security contractors guarding oil facilities and pipelines. Reconstruction operations would not have succeeded without

See UNSUNG on Next Page



Garrison in garrison

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Barracks is one of the meanings of "garrison." To say that Craig Garrison was sent back to the barracks might be an understatement.

First, the "rumor" of his resignation goes something like this: Craig had his not-so-sedate conversation with the commissioner. Craig emailed her after to say that the seemingly unbridgeable divergence of views might be best resolved if he just resigned. The operational word in my hearing is the "IF," and Garrison proceeded to state in detail the divergence of views and why he was resigning, effective 1st September when his contract ended, if matters cannot be resolved. Immediately, however, the response was a loud "OK," and his resignation was surprisingly announced at a public gathering.

A threat of resignation as a tactic to have someone pay attention to one's views is not uncommon and given the paucity of HQT administrators, Craig might possibly have thought he had a trump card. Rita Sablan, we surmise, might have thought she had better cards in her hand, and called Craig's "bluff." Since Saipan has been a poker-playing island for a while now, that might just have been the way the cards were dealt and played, putting Craig on the downside of the gaming chips.

The new turn and twist came with the immediate relief of Garrison, and we wondered if EEOC would not be too far behind. Monday's paper confirmed our projection, perhaps, foreshadowed by Frank Agulto's assessment on the retaliatory nature of Rita's action in assigning Craig to administrative leave.

One of Garrison's reported points that merits serious consideration is the remuneration of principals being similar regardless of variance in the number of served clientele. PSS pay scales are set, allowing minor divergence within a range, and PSS' systems support might be explained in the additional subordinate personnel allowed supervisory administrators. But in today's corporate standards, that rationale might be vocationally understandable, though not professionally justified.

When MHS needed four vice principals early this year, I thought I qualified for one that favored clearly a male applicant with familiarity of social behavior and science, language and the humanities. I applied and HR dutifully informed me that I failed to meet BoE specific qualifications. My certifications were evidently not of the right kind!

I mention this last not to call attention to my continuing drama with PSS but to highlight what I see as an organizational emphasis on strictures over and above the system's heralded motto of "students first" and support of highly qualified teachers.

The accountability I have of Garrison is primarily on whether his administrative style is enhancing the learning capability of students. He had opined in one of his write-ups that students are spending too much sitting time in classrooms, rather than "experiencing and doing" activities that can be processed for participatory learning.

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

The European classroom style and model passed on to American schools, around the world including Japan-Korea-China, were designed to instruct students to pass exams, where teachers as experts instruct them of the right answers to standard questions. PSS pays attention to goals, projections, and accomplishments mathematically translated so administrators are measured of their efficacy on how students fare in standard measures like the SAT. Nursing individual cases of Juan and Maria are lost in the umbrella of the average score!

Garrison seems to be moving away from that classical and no longer relevant and effective pedagogical style, and if he stepped on toes of colleagues and supervisors in the process (admittedly, Craig's colorful use of the English language and objectively brusque mode of relating might have been contributing factors), we all know that what passes for "disrespect" of mannered sensibilities is often just a case of misplaced pride inordinately hurt, self-induced loss of face, or just plain hubris.

For all the vaunted claim of corporate teamwork and collegial consultation, PSS' surprising announcement of supervisory shuffles is more the act of central command rather than the enabling facilitation of corporate leadership. The courage to lead a long time ago abandoned the military central command model, taught by TT officials and practiced by the Pentagon.

Unraveling the tragicomic drama of Rita and Craig is not the main feature of the PSS show. Media's propensity to dichotomize, creating opposing camps and giving the impression that contradictions can only be resolved by combatants in conflict, and given the litigious ambience of our society, necessitating the judgment of the court, or such bodies as the EEOC, lose sight of the main plots of "students first" and HQT enablement in the shuffle.

Main characters in this drama so far are bona fide teachers. They are functional human beings with manageable selfhood capable of raising the fundamental question of how students are benefiting from the divergence of views and corresponding administrative actuations. If one can transcend the eff-ing idiocies of hypocritical morality and the be-itching urges of egotistical one-upmanship, might we be able to focus on the system that is supposed to support the struggling student wanting to learn, and the qualified teacher committed to teach?

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Letter to the Editor

Human beings, not aliens

Hafa Adai CNMI! I hate for this to be my debut "return to the press" piece, but I feel so strongly about this particular subject that I could not let another day pass without writing this letter.

I am writing this letter in response to a letter that was written by Susana Blas Deleon Guerrero, the president of the CNMI Women's Association, on Friday, July 15, 2011. This letter will cover many points that she mentioned in her letter and explain why I, as a human being, believe they are misguided statements or otherwise simply inaccurate.

In her fifth paragraph, she mentions that the CNMI indigenous people who attended the hearings for the implementation of Public Law 110-229 rejected "any improved status of thousands of aliens." She says that the reason behind this "is not that those in opposition refuse aliens to have some status, but the people oppose being displaced in their own ancestral homeland." Unfortunately, I don't think she understands the meaning of the word "displaced." According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the definition of "displace" is "to remove from the usual or proper place; *specifically*: to expel or force to flee from home or homeland." Now, I may be wrong, but I don't think that any foreigners who have come to the CNMI to work have gone around forcing locals to flee from their homeland. Have any of you seen a contract worker holding a gun up to a Chamorro or Carolinian's head and telling them that they need to leave the islands or die? If you have, please let me know so I can stand corrected.

Now, some of you might be thinking at this point, "Why use such an extreme example?" I used the gunpoint example because when I was in the military, all my superiors would ask us during hard times if anyone forced us to sign the dotted line and join the service. To those who would say "Yes," they would respond, "No one forced you to join the military. Did anyone hold a gun up to your head and tell you that you had better sign on the dotted line if you want to live? No? Then no one forced you to do anything, and you did it completely of your own free will. Now you must live with the consequences." So, Ms. Deleon Guerrero, you can claim that the indigenous people of the CNMI are being displaced by the foreign contract workers all you like, but all it will ever amount to is a claim, because according to the dictionary definition of the word "displace," your statement simply is not true.

She then makes the claim that most of the 30,000 U.S. citizens residing in the CNMI are Chamorro and Carolinian, but she immediately follows that claim with saying that there are approximately 23,000 aliens residing in the CNMI. She says that "it is arguable that there are more aliens residing in the CNMI than there are indigenous Chamorro and Carolinians." This simply cannot be logically sound, based on what she has written. If there are approximately 23,000 aliens residing in the CNMI, and even just half of them are married couples who have children born on island, and if the average household has three children, then that equals about 17,000 non-Chamorro or Carolinian U.S. citizen children. This number is over half of 30,000, therefore, I do not see how she can honestly say that most of the U.S. citizens in CNMI are Chamorro or Carolinian.

She tries to avoid blaming the CNMI Department of Labor and Immigration by saying that "many agencies over the years have failed to control the immigration of aliens into the CNMI." Now, I may be wrong, but I was under the impression that until the federal takeover, the CNMI DOLI was the sole authority on foreign people entering and exiting the Commonwealth. I honestly don't know 100 percent, so if I was under the wrong impression, please, do let me know.

She then talks about the live births in the islands from 1990 to May 2011, and she goes into the demographics of it all, saying "out of 31,180 live births, 18,431 were of Filipino, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Thai, Indian, Nepalese, Bangladesh Taiwanese, Vietnamese, Malaysian, Burmese, and Sri Lankan descent." I fail to see where this is a problem, but apparently it is a huge problem for her, as she goes on to say that "This appalling number of 18,481 live births of aliens in the CNM has begun to disenfranchise the local indigenous population." Disenfranchise? I'm beginning to wonder if she truly understands the meaning of the words that she is using, because I, for one, cannot see how the children born to alien workers are disenfranchising the local indigenous population.

Let's refer back to the Merriam-Webster dictionary for the definition of this word: "to deprive of a franchise, of a legal right, or of some privilege or immunity; *especially* to deprive of the right to vote." Can someone please tell me how the births of all these children (whom she also wrongly calls "aliens") in the CNMI has deprived any of the local indigenous population of their right to vote? If there is something going on in the shadows that I don't know of where children born to alien workers are preventing local indigenous people from voting, then I am sorry for my ignorance in this matter. Also, I must say that it is a shame that she thinks of children born to aliens as also being aliens. These are children, mind you, who were born and raised in the CNMI as U.S. citizens and have contributed to the society just as much, if not more, than the average Chamorro or Carolinian child. Take, for example, John Edward M. Elenzano, who was recently credited with an NMI first when he took home the gold while representing the CNMI at the NFL Nationals in Dallas, Texas. Is he simply just another "alien" to you, Ms. Deleon Guerrero? Because to me, he is a CNMI youth hero and a bright example of how the youth of our islands should be.

In her next paragraph, she says that H.R. 1466 will have a negative impact on the amount of social programs that will be available to local residents. What exactly is her definition of "local?" I'm pretty sure if someone is born and raised in a particular place, that makes them "local," doesn't it? I know I've always considered myself a "local" of Saipan. Even here in the continental U.S., when people I meet ask me where I'm from, I always tell them I'm from Saipan. That is home to me, and that is the only place in this world where I would consider myself to be a "local."

She goes on to say that "H.R. 1466 will also place the local indigenous population at a disadvantage in terms of employment and voting in local elections." I'm sorry, but I've got some bad news for her: H.R. 1466 has absolutely nothing to do with putting the local indigenous population at a disadvantage in terms of employment. Unfortunately, the local indigenous population put themselves at a disadvantage in terms of employment when they chose to look to foreign lands to provide the CNMI with a workforce. This created the separation of "classes of jobs," i.e., the jobs that indigenous locals were more than happy to do, and the jobs that they absolutely refused to do. This led us to the situation we are in today, where the contract workers take whatever jobs they can, which usually, if not always, fall into the first category, and the indigenous locals take up all the government jobs. Please don't go blaming H.R. 1466 for something that you all brought upon yourselves.

As far as her saying that H.R. 1466 will place the local indigenous people at a disadvantage in terms of voting, well, hey, that's democracy and fairness at work. These people (because that's what they are, *people*, not *aliens*) deserve nothing less than a voice in the community that they live in and have been living in and contributing to for many, many years. If you disagree with that, then I'd have to say that you're trying to bring slavery back into the U.S., but instead of using African-Americans as slaves, you're using Filipinos, Chinese, Koreans, Japanese, Thais, Indians, Nepalese...you get the picture.

The last of her statements that I'm going to address is found in her second to last paragraph, where she says, "Not only will H.R. 1466 displace thousands of indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people, it will also deprive them of full potential benefits from social programs and another small benefits provided by the CNMI government..." I've already covered the displacement thing, so we won't revisit that here. Instead, I'd like to focus on the racist aspect of this statement. Essentially, what she's saying here is that *only* Chamorro and Carolinian people are entitled to benefits from social programs and other benefits provided by the CNMI government. Last I checked, we are all human beings here, so what, exactly, makes these legal alien workers so different from the Chamorro and Carolinian people, that they do not deserve to receive the benefits from social programs as well? Obviously, they can't receive the "other small benefits" provided by the CNMI government, since they aren't local indigenous people with relatives working for the government who can hook them up with jobs and whatever else "other small benefits" covers. But they do at least deserve every bit of benefit from the same social programs that Chamorros and Carolinians enjoy.

We are all human beings here. It matters not what color your skin is, what country you came from, what god(s) you worship, or what political affiliations you possess. What matters is that everyone gets the same chance to succeed and that everyone is treated fairly and equally. A human being deserves nothing less than that. To be against H.R. 1466 is to be against giving human beings the voice that they deserve. It is to be against the very same fairness and equality declared by the United States Declaration of Independence's famous opening line: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..."

In closing, she says that they "humbly and sincerely ask your committee to think of our indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people of the CNMI." Well, for my closing, I humbly and sincerely ask you all to think of our fellow human beings who have been working for us, building our roads and buildings, handling our garbage, washing our clothes, cleaning our offices, and bringing revenue to our local business establishments over the years. They are just as much a part of our society as you and I are, and they deserve the same rights that are afforded to us. Don't let racism get the best of you, when you know in your heart that they deserve the same rights that you enjoy having. After all, you wouldn't want these rights to be kept from you if you were in their place and you knew you deserved nothing less for everything you've done.

Kelvin Rodeo
Glendale, Calif.

UNSUNG

From Page 10

civilians repairing and protecting the critical infrastructure.

The most admirable of volunteers deploy with the first wave of U.S. forces, willing to face the greatest uncertainty, the highest risk and tolerate the most austere living conditions. Many are adventure-seeking patriots that want to escape a relatively boring life in the United States. Each new rotation of civilians has it a bit easier, as they benefit from improved security and living standards. Volunteers in Afghanistan in 2001-2002 or Iraq in 2003-2004 had few comforts and limited options for food, water and hygiene. Now, there is air conditioning, cable TV and Skype, and daily showers are common. While some remote operating bases remain austere, the big bases are relatively well served – but inherent danger and long-term family separation still exist.

A tour "in the box" (Iraq or Afghanistan) can help civilians meet financial goals. Deployment offers more money for soldiers, government civilians and contractors as increased risk and hardship come with increased compensation. After all the financial incentives are applied, most Americans make six-figure salaries while deployed. I recall a Filipino contractor security guard outside King Faisal's Palace in Iraq who made 20 times more money checking ID cards than working as a schoolteacher in his home country. One of our Iraqi laborers called $40 per week for rebuilding his own country "dream money."

Deployment is not for everyone. There are screening standards for health and fitness that government civilians and contractors must pass before being allowed to deploy into combat zones although the requirements are not as strict as they are for the military.

The risks faced by civilians living and working in combat zones vary widely. Most perform duties on installations or bases that are well protected by the military or security forces. While subject to occasional rocket and mortar attacks, they are relatively safe from car bombs, sniping, kidnappings and other attacks. However, some civilians must live or travel "outside the wire" to perform their job. It is here where they face the greatest risk and deserve our utmost respect. Let's not forget them; they are an essential part of our team and their sacrifice deserves special recognition!

Kerry C. Kachejian is a combat veteran of Stability and Reconstruction Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and the author of SUVs Suck in Combat: The Rebuilding of Iraq during a Raging Insurgency *(available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble). He was recently presented the "Literacy Hero Award." www.kerrykachejian.com.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

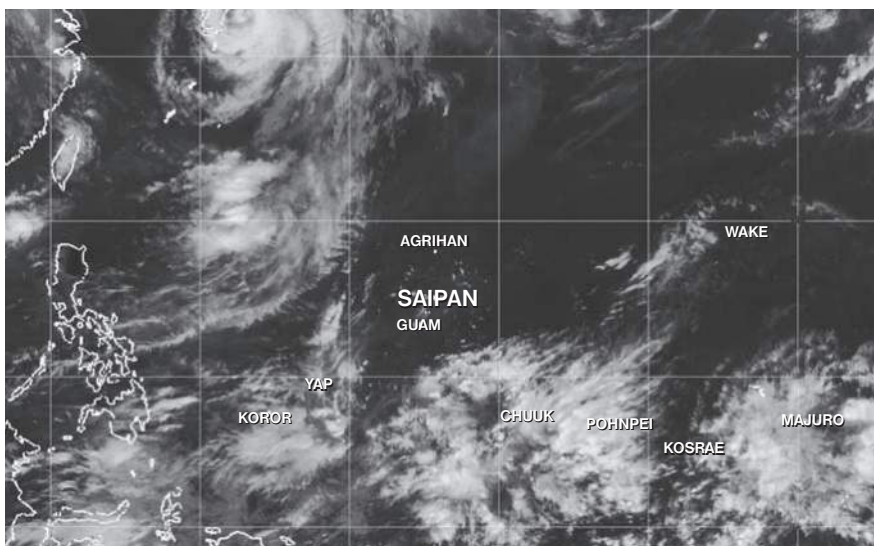
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Palau	Rain	▲84	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼75
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼54
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲83	▼71
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼82
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Showers	▲70	▼56
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲83	▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼77
New York	Thundershowers	▲86	▼71
Osaka	Rain	▲84	▼80
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼55
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲82	▼73
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼66
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼52
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲86	▼70
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲94	▼79

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging southwesterly winds well south of Typhoon Ma-on (08W) are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well northwest of Guam or north of a line from 17N130E to 19N136E. For more information on Yyphoon Ma-on, see bulletins from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. Converging surface winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Yap and Koror within an area bounded by a line from 2N131E to 10N132E to 16N140E to 2N141E back to 2N131E. A surface trough curves northwestward from 1N153E to 10N146E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring between the equator and 12N from 143E to 160E including Chuuk and Pohnpei. A trade-wind trough extends northeastward from 1N168E to 8N176E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over the Marshall Islands and near Kosrae within an area bounded by a line from EQ161E to 9N165E to 11N180 to 3N180 to EQ176E back to EQ162E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:20 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
10:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
5:01 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
11:27 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:56 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:05 PM	9:50 AM
Thursday	10:41 PM	10:37 AM
Friday	11:19 PM	11:24 AM
Saturday	11:58 PM	12:12 PM
Sunday		1:01 PM

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  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

US debt still attractive to overseas investors

WASHINGTON (AP)—The rest of the world still trusts Uncle Sam to make good on his word.

Bitter and so-far fruitless debate in Washington about America's looming borrowing limit has raised the prospect that in 14 days the U.S. will default on its enormous debt for the first time in history. But foreign investors don't seem too concerned. They bought $38 billion in U.S. government debt in May, increasing their holdings 0.6 percent to $4.51 trillion, the Treasury Department said Monday.

Foreign investors' love of U.S. debt isn't as blind as it might appear, though. Investors expect lawmakers to raise the borrowing limit to avoid a potential global financial crisis. They also expect that the federal government would choose to cut spending if they can't agree on new spending limits, rather than withholding interest payments to bondholders.

And there are few options for big investors that are safer or easier to trade than U.S. debt.

"The market is assigning a near-zero probability of an actual default happening," said Thomas Simons, a money market economist at Jefferies & Co. "Until the there is a significant event that makes Treasurys much more dangerous, foreign governments are going to continue to invest in the U.S."

Simons predicts that foreign holdings have likely grown since May. Debate about the borrowing limit has only grown more feverish since then, but investors are being driven to Treasurys for the same reason as ever: safety.

Growth in the U.S. economy began to slow this year, making stocks look less attractive. The debt of other countries is either too risky or there isn't enough of it. European governments are mired in a debt crisis far scarier than the kerfuffle in Washington over the borrowing limit.

"The best thing we have going for us right now is that Europe is such a mess," said Jay Bryson, global economist at Wells Fargo Securities.

Financially strong countries such as Germany, Switzerland and Australia don't issue enough debt to satisfy countries like Japan, China, and the U.K., which need to park hundreds of billions of dollars in cash reserves in assets they can sell when needed.

China, the biggest buyer of U.S. Treasury debt, increased its holdings in May for the second straight month, after five months of declines. China's holdings increased $7.3 billion to $1.16 trillion.

China's government has urged the U.S. to resolve the borrowing limit fight, even as it adds to its holdings. Last week, a spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry said: "We hope that the U.S. government adopts a responsible policy to ensure the interests of the investors."

Japan and the United Kingdom, the second- and third-largest foreign buyers of Treasurys, also boosted their stockpiles.

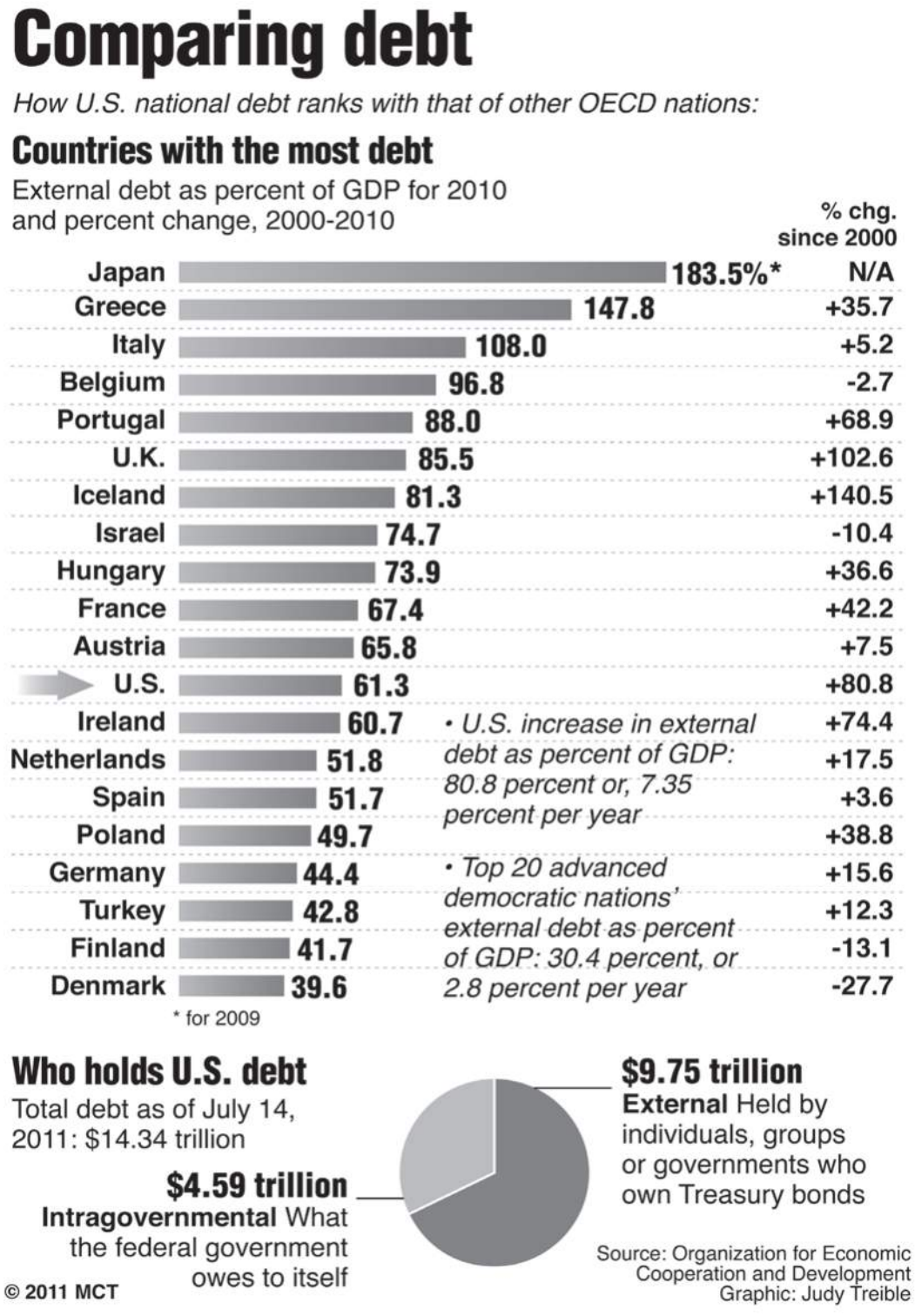
The yield on the 10-year Treasury bond, which usually rises when investors think it is getting more risky, is considerably lower than earlier this year. It closed yesterday at 2.91 percent, down from as high as 3.72 percent in February.

The U.S. government issues bonds to pay for things it can't afford with tax revenue. There is a congressional limit to the overall amount it can borrow. The government reached that $14.3 trillion limit on May 16. Since then, the Treasury has relied on accounting maneuvers and higher-than-expected tax receipts to avoid running out of cash. But the Treasury Department says it will have exhausted those maneuvers by Aug. 2.

The standoff over the debt limit has persisted for weeks, spurring warnings from Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and leading investors on Wall Street that a default would be disastrous for the U.S. economy.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said Monday in an interview on CNBC that he is confident a deal on raising the limit will be reached. Republican leaders, such as House Speaker John Boehner, have taken default "off the table," he said.

Still, a default would cause many overseas investors to reduce their U.S. holdings, economists say. That's because U.S. debt would suddenly be viewed as riskier. They would buy fewer bonds, pushing up the interest rates the U.S. government—and therefore taxpayers—would have to pay to attract lenders.


Comparing debt
How U.S. national debt ranks with that of other OECD nations:
Countries with the most debt
External debt as percent of GDP for 2010 and percent change, 2000-2010
% chg. since 2000
Japan 183.5%* N/A
Greece 147.8 +35.7
Italy 108.0 +5.2
Belgium 96.8 -2.7
Portugal 88.0 +68.9
U.K. 85.5 +102.6
Iceland 81.3 +140.5
Israel 74.7 -10.4
Hungary 73.9 +36.6
France 67.4 +42.2
Austria 65.8 +7.5
U.S. 61.3 +80.8
Ireland 60.7 +74.4
Netherlands 51.8 +17.5
Spain 51.7 +3.6
Poland 49.7 +38.8
Germany 44.4 +15.6
Turkey 42.8 +12.3
Finland 41.7 -13.1
Denmark 39.6 -27.7
* for 2009
• U.S. increase in external debt as percent of GDP: 80.8 percent or, 7.35 percent per year
• Top 20 advanced democratic nations' external debt as percent of GDP: 30.4 percent, or 2.8 percent per year
Who holds U.S. debt
Total debt as of July 14, 2011: $14.34 trillion
$4.59 trillion
Intragovernmental What the federal government owes to itself
$9.75 trillion
External Held by individuals, groups or governments who own Treasury bonds
Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
Graphic: Judy Treible
© 2011 MCT

Obama threatens veto of House GOP spending cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Courting confrontation and compromise alike, House Republicans shrugged off President Barack Obama's threat to veto legislation to cut federal spending by trillions of dollars on Monday while simultaneously negotiating with him over more modest steps to avert a potential government default.

The Republican bill demands deep spending reductions and congressional approval of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution in exchange for raising the nation's debt limit. But Obama will veto it if it reaches his desk, the White House said, asserting the legislation would "lead to severe cuts in Medicare and Social Security" and impose unrealistic limits on education spending.

In response, GOP lawmakers said they would go ahead with plans to pass the bill on Tuesday. "It's disappointing the White House would reject this commonsense plan to rein in the debt and deficits that are hurting job creation in America," Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio said.

By contrast, neither the administration nor congressional officials provided substantive details on an unannounced meeting that Obama held Sunday with the two top House Republican leaders, Boehner and Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia.

Obama said late Monday the two sides were "making progress."

Several Republicans said privately the decision to vote on veto-threatened legislation is paradoxically designed to clear the way for a compromise. They said conservatives would have a chance to push their deep spending cuts through the House, and then see the measure quickly die either in the Democratic-controlled Senate or by veto.

AP

John Holman, of Denver, Colo., right, and others with the group "No Labels" take part in a rally on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, July 18, 2011, to urge Congress and the president to find a bipartisan solution to the fiscal crisis.

Leon Guerrero BOG'S newest VP, new director of Customer Service

HAGATNA, Guam— Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero has been hired to be the Bank of Guam's director of Customer Service, according to a bank statement yesterday.

Leon Guerrero

Reporting directly to Bank of Guam's president and board of directors chair, Lou Leon Guerrero, Leon Guerrero will oversee all aspects of the organization's customer service levels.

A graduate of Chaminade University, Leon Guerrero spent over eight years with Guam's Office of Civil Defense, last serving as the Public Affairs Officer. She began with the office in 2003 first as a Nemis Assistant, then becoming a project officer and finally serving as the Public Affairs Officer for four years. ***(BOG)***

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,385.20	1,305.44	2,765.11
-94.57	-10.70	-24.69
-0.76%	-0.81%	-0.89%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9407	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7954	Philippine Peso	42.9850
British Pound	0.6218	Indian Rupee	44.5550	Singapore Dollar	1.2160
Canadian Dollar	0.9582	Indonesian Rupiah	8,552.50	South Korean Won	1,056.745
Chinese Yuan	6.4671	Japanese Yen	79.0850	Swiss Franc	0.8180
Euro	0.7082	Malaysian Ringgit	2.9977	Taiwan Dollar	28.9250
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1813	Thailand Baht	29.8640

Nation

Giant dust storm moves through Phoenix area

PHOENIX (AP)—A giant wall of dust rolled through the Phoenix area on Monday, turning the sky brown, creating dangerous driving conditions and delaying some airline flights.

The dust, also known as a haboob in Arabic and around Arizona, formed in Pinal County and headed northeast, reaching Phoenix at about 5:30 p.m.

The dust wall was about 3,000 feet high and created winds of 25 to 30 mph, with gusts of up to 40 mph, said Austin Jamison, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. Visibility was down to less than a quarter-mile in some areas, he said.

"You have suddenly very poor visibilities that come on with all the dense dust in the air," he said. "With poor visibilities, that makes for dangerous driving conditions and that's arguably the biggest impact."

There were no immediate reports of accidents on roadways because of the storm, which began to clear within an hour of moving in. The Arizona Department of Public Safety did not immediately return a request for information about road conditions.

AP

A dust storm rolls into the Phoenix area Monday evening, July 18, 2011.

Some departing flights at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport were delayed because of the storm, said airport spokeswoman Julie Rodriguez. Incoming flights from nearby cities including Los Angeles were being held until the storm cleared, she said. She did not know how many flights were delayed or whether any were canceled.

Another giant dust storm in Arizona caught worldwide attention on July 5. That storm brought a mile-high wall of dust that halted airline flights, knocked out power for hundreds of people and turned swimming pools into mud pits.

Jamison said Monday's storm was not as powerful or as large as the last one, and didn't last as long.

"It's kind of like a ripple in a pond where it spreads out, slows down and fades out," he said.

Rodriguez said visibility at the airport was better Monday than it was during the July 5 storm, which grounded flights for 45 minutes.

"It's not as bad as it was," she said. "It's reduced but it's not terrible."

Weather officials say haboobs only happen in Arizona, the Sahara desert and parts of the Middle East because of dry conditions and large amounts of sand.

Pollution levels skyrocket during dust storms and create even more breathing problems for people with asthma and other similar conditions.

The dust also brings increases in a disease known as Valley Fever, a fungal pneumonia. Valley Fever thrives in the hot and arid Southwest in dirt found just a few feet beneath the earth's surface; it can be stirred up by construction, wind and other activity.

Lawyer: Elaborate plans made to keep Anthony safe

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Casey Anthony's whereabouts for her first week of freedom were a closely guarded secret Monday, known only to a select few as she tries to start a new life after being acquitted of killing her daughter. One of her lawyers says an elaborate plan was made to protect her from people with "the lynch-mob mentality."

Her options for starting a new life could be limited by lawsuits pending against her, the scorn of multitudes who think she was guilty of the killing and a criminal record from her convictions for lying to police. She walked out of jail on Sunday, shortly after midnight.

Her attorney Cheney Mason told NBC's Today Show on Monday that he's confident in Anthony's safety, but declined to answer questions about where she was.

"She's gone, she's safe and elaborate plans had to be made to keep the people away from her," Mason said. "Her life is going to be very difficult for a very long time as long as there are so many people of the lynch-mob mentality."

Asked about how Anthony was paying for her fresh start, Mason replied that many volunteers have offered their help.

Her notoriety could also help her earn money. Experts who have helped other notorious defendants through rough times say she will have opportunities, but it won't be easy for the 25-year-old, who was found not guilty of killing her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee, but convicted of lying to investigators.

In response to a question about whether Anthony planned to cash in on her fame, her lead attorney Jose Baez told Fox News Channel late Sunday that she has "certain rights as an individual in this country." Attorneys planned to handle Anthony's affairs in a "dignified manner," he said.

"If she decides she wants to speak publicly about it, she'll make that decision," he said.

Baez and other attorneys didn't respond Sunday to email and phone messages left by The Associated Press, nor did a lawyer representing her father and mother. And in the Fox News interview, Baez declined to talk about his client's whereabouts or state of mind.

Another former Anthony lawyer, Terry Lenamon, said he had no clue where she was headed, and that probably only a few people close to her knew.

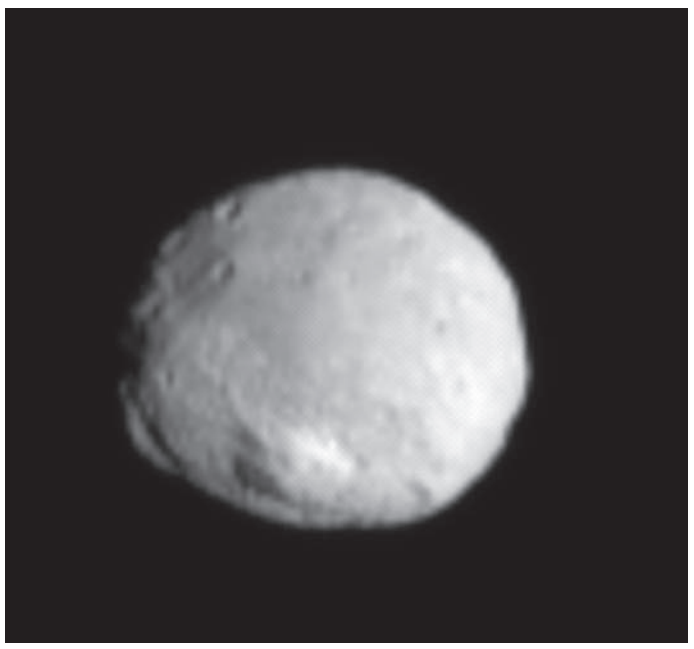
NASA spacecraft is orbiting massive asteroid

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—NASA's Dawn spacecraft was captured into orbit around the massive asteroid Vesta after a 1.7 billion-mile journey and is preparing to begin a study of a surface that may date to the earliest era of the solar system, the space agency said Monday.

The entry into orbit occurred while the spacecraft's antenna was pointed away from Earth, so mission controllers had to wait for Dawn to re-establish contact to confirm its success.

The capture was estimated to have occurred at 10 p.m. PDT Friday, when Dawn was 9,900 miles from Vesta and 117 million miles from Earth in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, according to a statement from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"We are beginning the study of arguably the oldest extant primordial surface in the solar system," the mission's principal investigator, Christopher Russell from the University of California, Los Angeles, said in the statement.



AP

This image of the Asteroid Vesta, released by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., Monday, July 18, 2011, was captured by the Dawn spacecraft on July 1, 2011. The image was taken from a distance of about 62,000 miles (100,000 kilometers) away from the protoplanet Vesta. Each pixel in the image corresponds to roughly 5.8 miles.

NASA said that after the orbital capture, Dawn sent an initial close-up image taken for navigation purposes. Before the Dawn mission, images of Vesta were obtained by ground- and space-based telescopes but did not show much surface detail.

Vesta, 330 miles in diameter, is the second-most massive object in the asteroid belt and is believed to be the source of many meteorites that fall to Earth.

Dawn will continue to approach Vesta over the next three weeks, search for possible moons and make more navigation images. It begins gathering science data in August. Vesta's gravitational pull on Dawn will be measured to more accurately determine the asteroid's mass.

The spacecraft will eventually get as close as 110 miles from the surface.

ACROSS THE NATION

FBI: US couple kidnapped Israeli to force divorce

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey rabbi and his wife surrendered to the FBI on Monday on charges that they abducted an Israeli man, beat him and threatened to bury him alive if he didn't give his wife a religious divorce. The case against David Wax and his wife in U.S. federal court marks a strange twist in a chain of events that started with a divorce dispute in Israel's Rabbinical Court over the victim's refusal to give his wife a "get," an Orthodox Jewish divorce document permitting a wife to remarry. It also entangles a prominent religious figure and publisher of Jewish texts, described as a "pillar of the community" of Lakewood, N.J., a large Orthodox enclave and center of Jewish learning.

Police: Fla. teen killed parents, then had a party

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A 17-year-old boy is accused of bludgeoning his parents with a hammer, then hosting dozens of friends for a party while their bodies lay in the bedroom, police said Monday. Tyler Hadley of Port St. Lucie is charged with twin counts of first-degree murder in the deaths, which authorities say happened Saturday. The parents—Blake and Mary-Jo Hadley—were believed to have been struck with the hammer in their heads and torsos sometime after their son posted on Facebook around 1:15 p.m. Saturday alerting friends to an evening party at his house. As many as 60 people attended the party that night, according to Port St. Lucie Police spokesman Tom Nichols.

Molestation investigation shuts California school

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Authorities on Monday shut down a private preschool and elementary school in a Sacramento suburb after an investigation revealed multiple allegations of child molestation. The Creative Frontiers School was closed because of allegations from several current or former students about molestation dating back at least 15 years, Citrus Heights Police spokesman Jon Kempf said. The school's care license also was suspended. He said students were released to their parents after the California Department of Social Services shut the school, which serves about 180 students up to sixth grade. Police said a daycare program for preschoolers had been in session when the school was shut down.

Police believe father killed his wife, 4 kids

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP)—Police believe a 51-year-old man stabbed his wife and their four young children and set fire to their house on Monday, killing all five victims. The man was hospitalized as authorities tried to piece together the frantic scene. Neighbors described watching firefighters using CPR to try to revive the family members, including children, as they lay on the lawn in front of their home. Rescuers quickly realized it wasn't just smoke inhalation they were dealing with and rushed the 30-year-old mother and the children—ages 2, 5, 6 and 7—to the hospital. But all five died. The father was also taken to the hospital, where he was being detained. Police believe he killed his family.

Asia

Taliban execute Pakistani policemen on video

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The Taliban released a video Monday showing fighters executing 16 Pakistani tribal policemen in a hail of gunfire after they were captured in a cross-border raid from Afghanistan in June.

The video shows the policemen lined up on a hillside with their hands tied behind their backs, standing in front of armed Taliban fighters wearing scarves to hide their faces. Both the policemen and the insurgents are wearing shalwar kameez, the baggy shirt and pants common in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

One of the insurgents accused the men of executing six children from Pakistan's Swat Valley by firing squad.

"They are the enemies of the religion of Allah," the man said of the police officers.

He and several other fighters then opened fire on the policemen, who crumpled to the ground. Several of them were still moaning, and one fighter walked down the line shooting the policemen in the head.

The video was posted on the LiveLeak video sharing website and included a note saying the policemen were captured when the Taliban staged a cross-border raid from Afghanistan on June 1 in Pakistan's northwest Dir district. The video was first reported on by The Long War Journal website.

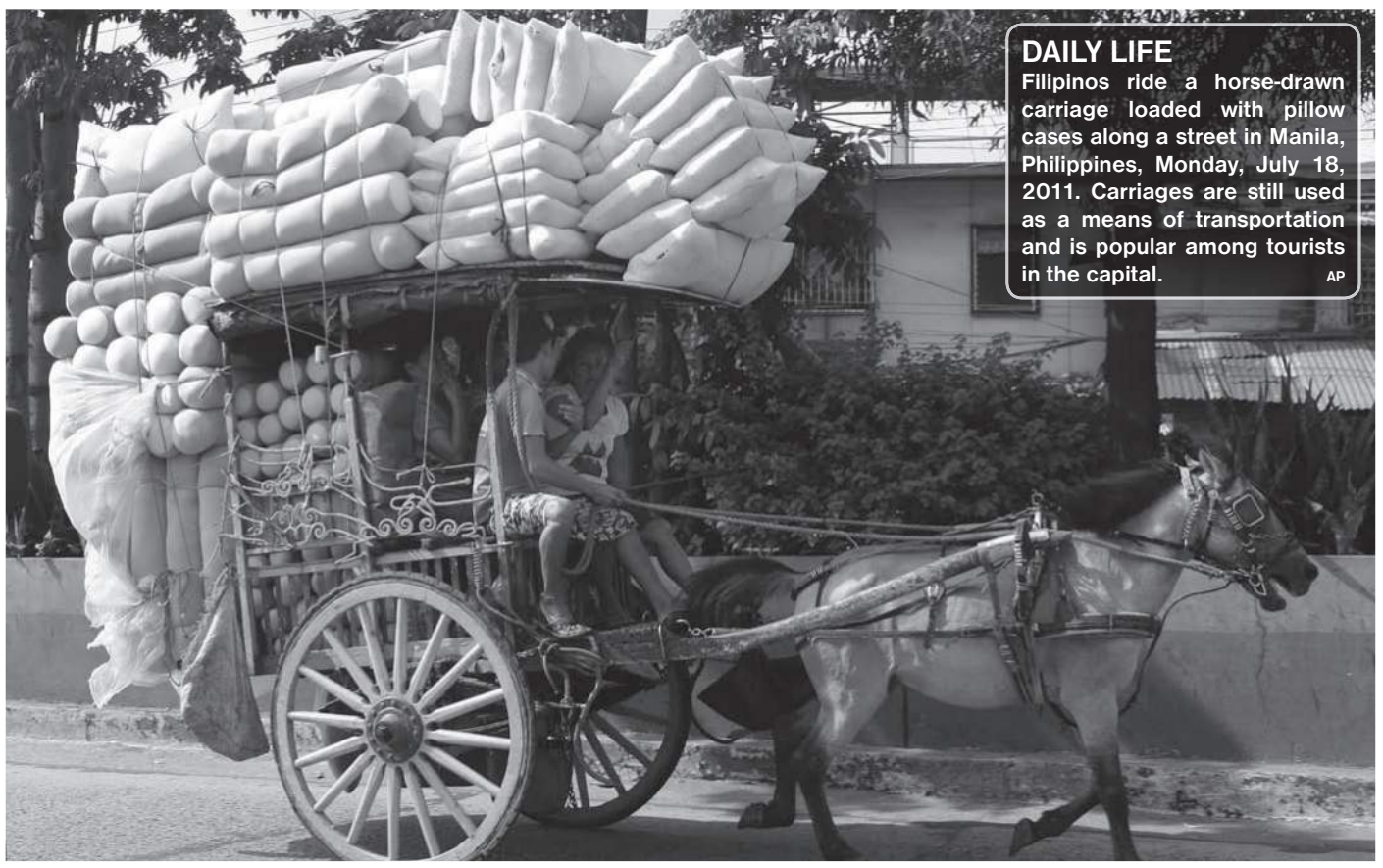
Pakistan army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas confirmed the contents of the video and said the Taliban fighters who executed the policemen came from the Swat Valley, an area that used to be controlled by the militant group. The Pakistani military launched a large offensive in Swat in 2009, but many of the fighters slipped across the border into Afghanistan.

Hundreds of Taliban fighters crossed into Upper Dir on June 1 from Afghanistan's eastern Kunar province. They killed at least 30 members of the security forces over three days of fighting before being forced back across the border by the military, Abbas said.

The Pakistani military has accused Afghan and NATO forces of not doing enough to target Taliban sanctuaries in Kunar, where the U.S. withdrew most of its forces over the last year.

Afghanistan and the U.S. have level similar accusations against Pakistan, saying it must do more to target sanctuaries on its side of the border filled with militants who regularly launch attacks against NATO troops in Afghanistan.

The Afghan government has also accused Pakistan of firing hundreds of rockets into Kunar over the past few months and killing at least 40 people—an allegation denied by Pakistan.



DAILY LIFE
Filipinos ride a horse-drawn carriage loaded with pillow cases along a street in Manila, Philippines, Monday, July 18, 2011. Carriages are still used as a means of transportation and is popular among tourists in the capital. AP

Indonesia's Mount Lokon volcano erupts twice

TOMOHON, Indonesia (AP)—An Indonesian volcano spewed hot gases and ash in two eruptions Monday that show high and unpredictable activity from the volatile mountain, experts said.

The second blast at Mount Lokon was the larger of the two afternoon eruptions, spewing ash as high as 2,000 feet (600 meters) into the air, said Farid Ruskanda Bina, a government volcanologist stationed near the volcano on northern Sulawesi island. The eruptions were about 10 minutes apart.

The long-dormant mountain rumbled to life last week, and an eruption Sunday released the greatest amount of energy so far, shooting soot and debris 11,400 feet (3,500 meters) into the sky.

About 5,200 people living nearest the crater have fled in recent days to schools, mosques and other makeshift shelters near the base. More than 33,000 people live along the slopes of Mount Lokon, growing cloves and coffee on its fertile slopes.

No injuries or damages were reported from Monday's eruptions, said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, a spokesman for the National Disaster Management Agency. One person died of a heart attack during an evacation last week.

Some residents in Manado, the provincial capital of North Sulawesi, located about 10 miles east of Mount Lokon, have complained of respiratory problems caused by smoke and falling ash.

Mount Lokon is one of about 129 active volcanoes in Indonesia. Its last major eruption in 1991 killed a Swiss hiker and forced thousands of people to flee their homes.

Indonesia, a vast archipelago of 240 million people, is prone to earthquakes and volcanoes because it sits along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a horseshoe-shaped string of faults that lines the Pacific Ocean.

Gen. Petraeus hands over command in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Gen. David Petraeus handed over command of the Afghan war to Marine Gen. John Allen on Monday as the U.S. and its international partners prepare to withdraw over the next few years.

Petraeus

Petraeus, widely credited with turning the tide in Iraq, left to take over the CIA with his signature counter-insurgency strategy having yet to deliver a safer Afghanistan or push the Taliban to reconcile with the country's Western-backed government.

Allen is known for helping turn Sunni insurgents against al-Qaida in Iraq in one of that war's most pivotal stages. In Afghanistan, he will be tasked with the overseeing the start of the American troop withdrawal this month even as insurgents step up the violence and attacks on high-profile Afghans, including the assassination last week of President Hamid Karzai's powerful half brother and the slaying of a close Karzai aid on Sunday.

Allen said the drawdown of U.S. forces and the transition of some areas to Afghan control this week does not mean international forces are easing up in their campaign to defeat the Taliban insurgency, though he acknowledged the fight won't be easy.

"It is my intention to maintain the momentum of the campaign," Allen said at the handover ceremony in the Afghan capital. "There will be tough days ahead. I have no illusions about the challenges."

Allen, who takes command of about 130,000 U.S. and NATO troops, has said he supports President Barack Obama's plan to withdraw a third of the U.S. forces in Afghanistan by next year.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bomb kills 5 militants in northwest Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Intelligence officials say a roadside bomb struck a vehicle carrying Taliban fighters in Pakistan's northwest, killing five of the insurgents. The officials say three militants were also wounded by Tuesday's blast in Pir Khel village in the South Waziristan tribal area. The fighters were followers of Maulvi Nazir, a prominent local Taliban commander. The officials say one of the injured militants was the son of Nazir's close associate, Tehsil Khan. Khan has played a role in evicting Uzbek militants from the area and has survived attempts on his life. It's unclear whether Tuesday's incident was related to Khan's activities.

Asian ministers discuss South China Sea, security

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—Territorial disputes and flare-ups in the South China Sea are expected to dominate talks at Asia's largest security forum this week, with Vietnam and the Philippines accusing China of interfering in energy exportation efforts. Foreign ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations arrived at a tightly guarded five-star hotel on Indonesia's resort island of Bali for their annual get-together on Tuesday. They will be joined later in the week by officials from the Asia-Pacific, Europe and the United States for the ASEAN Regional Forum.

Clinton in India for security talks

NEW DELHI (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is in India for security and counterterrorism talks as the two countries try to broaden their relationship and manage mutual concerns about Pakistan and Afghanistan. Clinton, who arrived in New Delhi late Monday, will spend all of Tuesday in discussions with senior Indian officials. The talks are a new round of U.S.-India strategic dialogue established last year to deepen ties between the world's oldest and largest democracies. Officials traveling with Clinton said the talks would focus primarily on U.S. plans in Afghanistan, India's strained ties with arch-rival neighbor Pakistan and economic and trade issues.

Malaysia media claims Jewish plot after rally

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's government-linked media claimed Monday that foreign Jewish groups might try to use an opposition-backed push to reform electoral laws to interfere in this Muslim-majority country. Prime Minister Najib Razak's office, however, later issued a rare statement distancing itself from the allegation. The Malay-language Utusan Malaysia daily said in an editorial that Malaysians "cannot allow anyone, especially the Jews, to interfere secretly in this country's business." It offered no evidence of a possible Jewish plot and named no specific group.

US, Hong Kong divers' bodies found in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Rescuers in the Philippines have recovered the bodies of an American and a Hong Kong resident who went missing while exploring a World War II shipwreck west of Manila. Romeo Renojo, maritime security chief at the Subic Bay Freeport, says the body of American dive master Steven Brittian was recovered Tuesday morning inside the engine room of the sunken USS *New York*. Hong Kong tourist Tin Shun Chuen's body was recovered late Monday. The two divers were last seen around sundown Sunday as they were about to ascend from the shipwreck. Renojo says an investigation is under way.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

No doubt Chavez will run in 2012 vote, aide says

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—An aide to Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez said Monday that there is no doubt the president will run for re-election next year despite his struggle with cancer. The remark by Finance Minister Jorge Giordani came as Chavez was in Cuba undergoing cancer treatment. "There's no doubt he's going to be there in the 2012 elections, and afterward for many more years," Giordani said in an interview on state television. Chavez has not been seen on television since he arrived in Cuba on Saturday night. The 56-year-old president, who has been in office more than 12 years, has indicated he intends to continue with his re-election campaign next year despite his illness.

Ex-Croatian premier back home

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)—Former Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader, who left his country for Austria while being investigated for corruption, was extradited home Monday night. After a judge approved his release from a prison in Salzburg, Austria, Croatian police escorted Sanader to Zagreb, where he was imprisoned, Croatian police spokesman Krunoslav Borovec said on Croatian TV. The former prime minister was driven home under tight security, Borovec said. Witnesses said police sealed off the area of Croatia where the motorcade arrived with Sanader. He is the highest-ranking official to be charged with a crime since Croatia became independent in 1991. The former Yugoslav republic has promised to root out corruption as it is slated to join the European Union in 2013. Sanader was the premier of Croatia for six years before resigning in 2009.

Mexican parents recoup kids via Internet testimony

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Two girls ages 4 and 8 were reunited in Mexico with their deported migrant parents Monday, after the couple was allowed to offer testimony in custody hearings in Pennsylvania via Internet phone-and-image conferencing. U.S. and Mexican lawyers for the couple say it is the first time they know of that a U.S. court has allowed testimony in a custody case to be made over the Web, using voice and image conferencing via a service like Skype. The parents' Mexican lawyer, Gustavo Garcia, said the cost of renting professional video conferencing facilities, which have been used in court testimony in the past, runs between $300 and $500 an hour. That amount is often prohibitive for parents deported from the U.S.

A 2nd London police official quits in scandal

LONDON (AP)—Scotland Yard's assistant commissioner resigned Monday, a day after his boss also quit, and fresh investigations of possible police wrongdoing were launched in the phone hacking scandal that has spread from Rupert Murdoch's media empire to the British prime minister's office. Prime Minister David Cameron called an emergency session of Parliament on the scandal and cut short his visit to Africa to try to contain the widening crisis. Lawmakers on Tuesday are to question Murdoch, his son James and Rebekah Brooks, the former chief executive of Murdoch's U.K. newspaper arm. In a further twist, a former News of the World reporter who helped blow the whistle on the scandal was found dead Monday in his home, but it was not believed to be suspicious.

Sectarian killing spree kills 30 in Syria

AP

In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syrian policemen carry the coffins of police and army members who were believed killed in recent violence during their funeral procession outside of a hospital in the central city of Homs, Syria, Monday, July 18, 2011.

BEIRUT (AP)—The discovery of three corpses with their eyes gouged out set off a sectarian killing spree that left 30 people dead in a chilling sign that the Syrian revolt against President Bashar Assad is enflaming long-simmering religious tensions.

The opposition accused the president's minority Alawite regime of trying to stir up trouble among the Sunni majority to blunt the growing enthusiasm for the four-month-old uprising. The protesters have been careful to portray their movement as free of any sectarian overtones.

The killings over the weekend in the central city of Homs "undermine the peaceful nature of the revolution and serve its enemies who want to turn it into a civil war," said Rami Abdul-Rahman, the director of the London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Homs-based activist Mohammad Saleh said the violence began Saturday after the corpses of three Alawite government supporters were dumped in Homs with their eyes gouged.

The men had gone missing two days earlier.

On Sunday, six bodies from various sects were found in the city, apparently in revenge attacks, Saleh said. Pro-government Alawite thugs called shabiha then went on a rampage, another activist said, opening fire in predominantly Sunni neighborhoods of Homs.

The dead included a 27-year-old mother of three, who was shot as she left her home, and a man in his 50s who was struck by a bullet on his balcony, a resident said.

"I was at the man's funeral yesterday, all he did was go out on his balcony," he said, adding that civilians have started setting up roadblocks to protect their neighborhoods. He spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Up to 40 shops were vandalized or burned, he said.

"It was a catastrophe, the situation could easily have slipped out of control," the resident said, adding the situation calmed down Monday but tensions were high.

Sectarian warfare is among the most dire scenarios facing Syria.

The country is home to more than 1 million refugees from neighboring Iraq, who serve as a clear testament to the dangers of regime collapse and fracture in a religiously divided society. They also see the seemingly intractable sectarian tensions in Lebanon as a cautionary tale.

"The Assad regime itself has a vested interest to portray the protest movement as one which is violent led by criminals, terrorists and by external actors," said Anthony Skinner, associate director at Maplecroft, a British-based risk analysis company.

"This is potentially an issue that Assad can manipulate to try and divide the momentum that we have seen building up," he said.

Gadhafi government holds talks with US officials

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Representatives of Moammar Gadhafi's embattled government held face-to-face talks with U.S. officials in neighboring Tunisia over the weekend, a Libyan government official said Monday, describing the meeting as a first step in opening dialogue.

A U.S. State Department official confirmed the meeting took place but said it was only to deliver a clear and firm message that Gadhafi must step down. The U.S. official said it was not a negotiating session and no future meetings were planned.

The talks came after Friday's decision by the United States and more than 30 other nations meeting in Istanbul to recognize the eastern-based rebels fighting Gadhafi's government as the country's legitimate representatives, added the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the meeting publicly.

Libyan spokesman Moussa Ibrahim told reporters in Tripoli that the talks were held Saturday in Tunisia but he refused to say which officials took part.

"This is a first step and we want to take further steps," he said. "We don't want to be stuck in the past; we want to move forward all the time," he told reporters in the corridors of the hotel where foreign journalists are required to reside.

He described it as a "a first-step dialogue" to see about repairing relations between the two countries, which he said had been damaged by misinformation.

The U.S. was an active participant in NATO airstrikes against Libyan forces that began March 19 and were authorized under a U.N. mandate to protect Libyan civilians from Gadhafi's advancing forces.

The U.S. later turned over command of the air campaign to NATO and now plays a largely logistical role in the continuing airstrikes.

Romanian govt recovers 64 stolen missile warheads

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—Dozens of small, old rocket warheads stolen from a train carrying military equipment were found Monday stashed near a railway station in a village of Romania, authorities said.

When the theft was discovered over the weekend, authorities promised the 64 warheads posed no danger to the public because the warheads, or fuses, were being transported separately from the rockets.

The warheads were found intact in four boxes near the railway station in the village of Chitila, just north of Bucharest, Marius Militaru, a spokesman for the interior ministry, told Antena 3 broadcaster. He declined to provide further details, citing an ongoing investigation.

Bulgaria's Economy Ministry identified the warheads as belonging to 122mm (4.8-inch) diameter Grad rockets, which are typically fired from vehicle-mounted multiple-rocket launchers.

It said in a statement that the shipment from Romania to Bulgaria was part of a transfer of "nonfunctional components and parts" for reprocessing at the VMZ factory—one of the Balkan nation's largest military factories—in Sopot, central Bulgaria, where the components and parts were to be replaced and the warheads prepared for sale.

Romanian national police spokesman Florin Hulea also said the warheads posed no risk because they were not attached to rockets.

Romanian officials also tried to portray the Saturday theft as accidental.

Focus

Space shuttle's science brought payoffs to Earth

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

In this image provided by NASA the space shuttle Atlantis is seen shortly after the rotating service structure (RSS) was rolled back at launch pad 39a, Thursday, July 7, 2011 at the NASA Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Science from the space shuttle helped open Earth's eyes to the cosmos and sister planets. It created perhaps the most detailed topographical map of Earth. And it even is helping doctors understand, and sometimes fix, what's happening in our aging and ailing bodies.

If you need help getting out of a crashed car, or if you're a soldier maneuvering around an active land mine field, space shuttle-derived technology may have saved your life.

And thanks to the space shuttle, we have healthier baby formula and cooling socks to wear in hot weather.

Most Americans wrongly credit the Apollo moon program with creating Earthly "spinoffs" of new technology that it never did: sticky Velcro, nonsticky Teflon and orange-powdered Tang—all things used by NASA but not invented there.

Yet the space shuttle program often doesn't get recognized for its science and technology, NASA says. And shuttle-based science will come to an end when Atlantis—carrying mouse stem cell and vaccine experiments—comes home on Thursday.

Of course spending nearly $200 billion on any advanced technology will pay off in various unplanned ways. And one scientist, a prominent critic of manned spaceflight, says NASA's claimed benefits are more hype than hope.

Bob Park, a professor of physics at the University of Maryland, debunker of science myths and author of the book "Voodoo Science," said much of NASA's claims of science and earthly technological benefits is advertising hokum that helps companies sell items as being developed in space.

"If you trace them, there's nothing there," Park said. "Teflon, Tang, nothing was invented in space. Space used it."

Park points to a decades-old NASA spinoff report as supporting his skepticism.

But scientists who have worked with and for the space agency say research during the 10 years the shuttle was developed and the 30 years it has flown has paid off.

"There's been a good deal of science learned on the shuttle," said MIT astronautics and health technology professor Laurence Young, who has sent experiments on seven shuttle flights, mostly on how weightlessness affects the body.

Science wasn't the reason the shuttle was built, said Rice University physicist Neal Lane, who was the head of the National Science Foundation and President Bill Clinton's science adviser. However, the shuttle and the International Space Station—which couldn't be constructed without the shuttle—are unprecedented places for important science. He has great hopes for an antimatter physics experiment shuttle Endeavour delivered to the station in May.

People overlook the increased understanding in human biology that the shuttle and station have provided, Lane said. "We've learned some things about the human body that we had no other way to learn except to operate for some period of time—some extended period of time—in space."

Astronauts lose bone strength, have balance problems and weakened immune systems that in many ways are similar to aging. Studying how to combat bone loss on shuttle astronauts with exercise and other activity may help the Earth-bound, they figure.

Still, the most obvious science the shuttle helped generate is with astronomy. Exhibit 1 is the Hubble Space Telescope, which changed Earth's view of the cosmos and even its understanding of the age of the universe. It was launched with the shuttle, fixed with the shuttle and upgraded four other times by spacewalking shuttle astronauts. Without all that, Earth's view of the rest of the universe would have been fuzzy at best.

Former NASA science chief Alan Stern said the shuttle launched three other major space exploration probes: Galileo, which gave close-up views of Jupiter and its moons; Magellan, which mapped hot chaotic Venus; and Ulysses, which examined the sun's larger influence on the edges of the solar system.

But what's taken for granted even more is how the shuttle improved our view of our home planet with one flight in 2000. The spacecraft carried a set of special radar instruments that mapped most of the world, including previously inaccessible areas such as jungles and mountaintops, with the most precise topographical measurements ever. This is important for military planning and aviation.

"It's a gift that is going to keep on giving. It's going to affect science, environment and national security," said University of Tennessee aviation and flight research professor John Muratore, a former NASA flight director. "And that is a really undervalued mission."

Another overlooked item from the space shuttle is the bioreactor, Muratore said. It originally was designed to grow cells and tissue in space for experiments in zero gravity, but it's used on Earth for all sorts of biomedical research, he said. Bioreactors can grow blood and human tissue in a constantly rotating growth medium that simulates the free fall of zero gravity. Then, scientists can direct tissue growth in predetermined shapes using plastic lattices, much like the way ivy climbs walls. It's still a developing technology so who knows where it will lead, said Dan Lockney, NASA's spinoff technology manager.

Each year, NASA puts out a list of shuttle science spinoffs, which are either purposeful or accidental. NASA scientists were trying to design better space food and they looked to algae. They found an algae nutrient that had only been seen in human breast milk and developed it. It is now in 95 percent of infant formula, Lockney said.

"Millions of babies have been fed (by) NASA; that beats Tang," Lockney said. Another common item is a material designed for shuttle spacesuits that controls temperature, cooling astronauts. Phase change materials from Outlast Technologies Inc. are now in socks, outdoor clothing and even some business suits, he said.

Famed heart surgeon Dr. Michael DeBakey helped develop a tiny new artificial heart pump—a bridge for patients needing transplants—based on fluid flow through the space shuttle main engines, the most complicated engines ever built. A few hundred people have had the device implanted.

NASA helped develop a tool for firefighters that rescues people from crashed cars that is lighter and cheaper than the famed Jaws of Life and which doesn't need an outside power source or hoses. Also, shuttle rocket fuel has been used to develop a device that safely sets off buried land mines.

For MIT's Young, science on the space shuttle is ideal. Astronauts would get so familiar with the experiments they had to perform, that they became experts themselves, sometimes adapting the research and making it better. They often were co-authors of Young's published research papers.

This was "the way we thought science should be done," he said.

Campus Life

SEX, DRUGS, LAUNDRY!

Here's what to cover in pre-college talk with teens

AP

This Aug. 19, 2004 file photo shows Duval McDaniel, left, of Katy, Texas, as he helps his daughter, Darby, a freshman student, move into Stockard-Martin Hall on the Oxford campus of The University of Mississippi during move-in day in University, Miss.

NEW YORK (AP)—When kids are old enough to understand, parents have The Talk, about birds and bees and how—poof—babies are born when two people love each other.

When it's time for kids to head off to college, The Talk II may go something like this: DON'T HAVE UNPROTECTED SEX!

Untethering your teens for college often includes rapid-fire declarations on birth control, drug use, date rape and binge drinking. Squeezed out of the conversation may be equally important topics that don't bubble to the surface until after the start of freshman year.

That could mean, for kids who have turned 18, an explanation of waivers they must sign ahead of time if they want to grant parents a say in their health care or allow them to see their grades.

It could mean advice on dealing with roommates after a lifetime of space to themselves, or even making sure they know how to set an alarm so they can get themselves up.

"It's a tough time to have these conversations when the wheels are falling off," said Houston Dougharty, vice president of student affairs at Grinnell College in Iowa. "We want families to have these conversations before they come to school."

Glossing over issues won't be enough in some cases, he warns. For example, the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, prohibits schools from releasing grades and other educational records without a student's written permission.

"Talking about the expected level of disclosure before the semester starts helps to avoid unwelcome surprises later," Dougharty said. "Things like, 'If you expect to see my grades, at what point do you expect to see them? Are you going to trust me to show you at winter break or summer break?'"

Parents used to texting high schoolers half a dozen times a day or more may be alarmed when their kids stop responding once they land at college, so the pre-college talk can cover: Will it be text, e-mail or phone calls? Will it be once a day, twice a week or every first Sunday of the month?

Dougharty also suggests going over a school's student code of conduct in detail, including what types of situations will result in a call home. Federal law allows each college to set those boundaries, covering such things as alcohol infractions when no legal or medical issue is involved.

Don't bombard your freshman-to-be with too much information at the last minute. "The important thing is to start a healthy discussion early," Dougharty said.

Long Island mom Eileen Masciale, whose 18-year-old daughter attends a state university in the mid-Atlantic region, said she wished she had gone over how to cope with social issues beforehand rather than concentrate as she did on academics and mundane logistics like laundry, especially in light of the suicide of a local teenager last year whom her daughter knew.

"My daughter has friends in her dorm, but it's been a challenge finding her 'core group,' as she calls it," Masciale said. "I didn't know how she was handling things, but she reached out to all her other friends at different colleges and got a lot of support. Things are falling into place now."

In Florida, Tina Koenig wound up driving one of her son's roommates to the ER when he broke his foot on a Sunday last year and the campus health clinic was closed. She happened to be there helping her son move and had no idea where to go for medical help, until she stumbled on a list of local hospitals and clinics that his housing complex had handed out. It was thrown into a mass of his belongings unread.

"I was there to help and drive him since the injured foot was the right foot, but if I wasn't ...," she said. "It would be helpful for the student to know local hospitals or urgent care facilities that accept his insurance."

Koenig's son faced a more serious health issue and sought treatment on his own at the school clinic without getting his parents involved, but the condition worsened and he wound up needing surgery and missing a semester of school.

"Kids want to be treated like adults and are led to believe they can manage medical treatment on their own but I don't think it's the case when they're that young," she said.

With another son college bound this year, Koenig's not sure how she'll benefit from hindsight. "Engaging my high school senior in a conversation about anything that doesn't involve the Miami Heat and the NBA playoffs is impossible."

Dougharty said it's often surprising how little new students can do for themselves.

"Every year I know of first-year students who wake up in the morning at college when their mom calls," he said. "They've never set an alarm, prepared their own meal and because they're bright kids they've, in essence, gotten through high school on their wits without having to be that organized," he said. "They haven't had to use the tools that they then need to be fully independent."

Life & Style

Secrets of Somali pirates revealed in new book

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—The pirates were nervous. A rookie author—a white man from Canada—had unexpectedly arrived in their cliff-top Somali village to ask about the captured ship anchored offshore.

Locals fearing a showdown quietly melted away into a small collection of shacks.

The encounter with the deadly gang forms the final chapter of "The Pirates of Somalia: Inside Their Hidden World," a first-of-its kind book that saw author Jay Bahadur live among the pirates. Bahadur's book is being released Tuesday in the U.S.

"They were paranoid beyond belief. They thought I was a CIA agent," the tall, soft-spoken writer told The Associated Press. "I thought they were going to shoot us."

Sweating with heat and nerves, Bahadur questioned the pirates and secretly filmed them before being whisked off by his own gang of armed bodyguards.

Bahadur spent months in Somalia at a time when pirate attacks were skyrocketing in both frequency and violence. His book takes readers through the evolution of the pirate groups from garrulous, self-proclaimed vigilantes who claimed they were protecting Somalia's waters from illegal fishing vessels to the deadly criminal gangs they are today.

The author, now 27, was living with his parents and writing marketing reports about pet food and napkins when he began planning his trip to Somalia. He had never been to Africa before.

"I was thinking I better get picked up at the airport because if I hadn't I would have been kidnapped in 30 minutes," he said. "I was frantically making friends on the plane and I was going to beg one to take me home if no one was there."

AP

A June 1, 2009, photo of Canadian author Jay Bahadur posing with Somali villagers in Dhanane, the semi-autonomous region of Puntland, Somalia, while researching a book about piracy.

But the bodyguards he had arranged for did indeed pick him up, and after a few shaky starts Bahadur was calling on pirates at home, wearing local robes and indulging in local pastimes such as chewing on narcotic khat leaves and gossiping about women and guns.

Bahadur needed the protection. Pirates have turned dangerously violent over the last year, as spiraling ransoms attracted ruthless criminals to a trade once dominated by aggrieved local fishermen. Hijacked crew members have been tortured and ships set on fire. In February, pirates hijacked a yacht and killed the four Americans aboard.

In a trip to the pirate stronghold of Eyl, Bahadur discovered pirates who are afraid of phantom U.S. navy divers and believe in psychic powers. He even describes an incident of panty-thieving on the high seas.

He also found that many widely held beliefs about pirates are wrong, including allegations that they are controlled by international criminal cartels, have alliances with Islamist rebels or use sophisticated intelligence networks. Such assumptions help shape the multibillion dollar fight against piracy.

"You have a lot of people with agendas making claims that aren't backed up by anything," said Bahadur. "I don't really have an agenda. I just tried to use common sense. ... I actually met these people and spoke to them. Most of them had no idea of the outside world."

But it wasn't always easy to get the information he wanted.

Bahadur spent time with a pirate who hit him up for car repairs and even asked for the jeans he was wearing, a request Bahadur politely declined. Eventually the man helped provide a detailed ransom breakdown, matching pirate accounts with the recollections of crew members about the ransom division.

Bahadur discovered that though pirates were paid a $1.8 million ransom to release the Victoria—the ship he saw in Eyl—the guards on board made only $12,000 each, which averaged out to about $10.40 an hour. The biggest share went to the investor backing the pirate team.

The high risks—of arrest, injury or death—that the low-ranking pirates take for a relatively small cut of the ransom reminded him of the situation faced by teenage drug dealers on the corners of American streets.

"Piracy in Somalia and the drug trade in the U.S. have a lot in common," said Bahadur. "They both provide status and an opportunity to advance in society that would be hard to get otherwise."

Bahadur's own relationship to the pirates is complex. He was protected by bodyguards supplied by the son of the president of Puntland, a semiautonomous pirate-infested region in the north, and he does not speak Somali.

One group he interviewed allowed him to test-fire a rifle during a picnic, and he brought back a Toronto Blue Jays baseball T-shirt as a gift for a pirate leader. By his own admission, Bahadur felt some slight admiration for the "reckless courage" of the men he interviewed.

But by the end of the book, the young author was forced to confront the new generation of pirates, gunmen from the interior drawn by the lure of riches and controlled by wealthy financiers. During the tense back-and-forth on the Somali cliff top, a pirate insisted that his hostages are being so well-fed that they would prefer to stay captive.

Bahadur later learned that one hostage was already dead, another gravely wounded.

"I had had the distinct impression that the Dhanane gang would have been as perfectly at ease with slaughtering their captives as ransoming them," he wrote. "Later, when reading news of the casualties the crew had suffered, I was struck by the chilling realization that I had shared tea with murderers."

These men, Bahadur concludes, are the future of piracy.

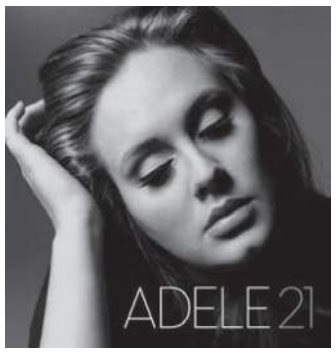
Adele's '21' passes 1 million digital downloads in U.S.

By GERRICK D. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Adele's chart reign continues, and it's looking like her rescheduled tour dates have turned out to be something of a blessing, given that the August and September shows stand a good chance of bolstering her chart presence into the fall.

In June, the singer was forced to halt her largely sold-out tour after being stricken with laryngitis. She recently announced that she had rescheduled the 14 dates that had to be cancelled and added six more—she'll play 10 dates in August and 10 in October—including new stops in Las Vegas; Atlantic City, N.J.; Durham, N.C.; Orlando, Fla.; Miami; and Spring, Texas.

The singer will make up her missed performance at the Greek



Theatre in Los Angeles on Aug. 15 and her date at the Hollywood Palladium on Aug. 17.

Earlier this month, Eminem's "Recovery" became the first album to sell 1 million digital downloads in the U.S.

Last week Adele broke that record.

The singer's breakout disc, which was released Feb. 22, logged an additional 25,000 downloads last week, bringing its total to 1,017,000, according to Nielsen SoundScan, making it the bestselling digital album of all time.

With that achievement, Adele became the second artist with a million-selling digital album and the first female to do so. Also, with it being available for only about five months, "21" is the fastest selling digital album.

Her album has remained a chart presence, and it's not looking like it has plans to slow down anytime soon, as fellow divas Lady Gaga and Beyonce both have experienced slumps in sales. "21" remains the year's top selling album to date with 2.5 million copies, and Adele's single "Rolling in the Deep" has logged nearly 4.1 million digital sales so far, according to Nielsen SoundScan's midyear report on U.S. music sales.

The disc is also expected to remain at No. 2 on the Billboard 200 chart this week.

Death & Funeral Announcement

†ISABEL IGUEL MARLIK

Better known as "Beck"
June 21, 1955 • July 13, 2011

In her New life she now joins her:
Parents: *Manases Iguel & Aurelia I. Iguel*
Husband: *Antonio Robert Marlik*

Her memories will live forever in the hearts of her:
Children: *Manases / Jennifer P. Iguel & Children*
Jennifer Monica I. Marlik & Children
Tanya Liz I. Marlik
Roger Anthony I. Marlik
Maverick Ryan I. Marlik

Her remains will depart from CHC Morgue at 7am to her residence in Tanapag, Homestead for viewing. Mass will be celebrated at 2:00pm at Santa Remedios Church, burial will follow at Tanapag Cemetery.

Thank you for your Condolences & Prayers.

The Family

‘Harry Potter’ faces steep drop after record start

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Harry Potter finished his Hogwarts school days with box-office highs around the world. The question is whether the young wizard can continue to work his charms on audiences now that so many fans already have seen his big-screen finale.

When a film opens to colossal numbers such as the record $169.2 million weekend domestically for “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2,” it usually has nowhere to go but down—and sharply—in its second weekend.

“Conventional wisdom is the bigger they open, the harder they fall,” said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com. “There’s no way they can sustain it.”

Still, distributor Warner Bros. predicts the finale will easily top $1 billion worldwide, joining only a handful of films that have reached that level.

The film is almost halfway there already. Adding in its record international income of $312.3 million, “Deathly Hallows: Part 2” was closing in on $500 million after just days in release.

Domestic revenues for the last three of the seven earlier “Harry Potter” films fell about 60 percent in their second weekends, a steep drop but typical of many blockbusters that count on opening weekend for a huge portion of their total income.

Because of its record launch, the finale could drop even further, down as much as 65 to 70 percent next weekend, said Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution at Warner Bros. After that, Fellman expects it to settle in for a long run, drawing repeat business from fans and even luring those who have not come out for earlier “Harry Potter” flicks.

“One thing I can tell you about the `Potter’ movies is that the pictures are very front-loaded,” Fellman said. “But this is different because, one, it’s so well-reviewed, and two, it’s the last one in the series. And you can see this movie if you haven’t seen the others and still appreciate it.”

Opening weekends for the past “Harry Potter” films varied widely, from $77.1 million for 2007’s “Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix” to $125 million for “Deathly Hallows: Part 1” last fall. Yet the films have played out consistently in the long haul, their total domestic earnings ranging from about $250 million to $317 million.

“Deathly Hallows: Part 2” is virtually certain to shoot past those levels and become the franchise’s top earner, no matter how big a drop it takes next weekend, when it faces fresh competition from Paramount Pictures’ superhero tale “Captain America: The First Avenger.”

Of the $295 million total for “Deathly Hallows: Part 1,” 42.4 percent came from opening weekend, according to Hollywood.com. If “Deathly Hallows: Part 2” matched that, it would finish at about $400 million, potentially becoming the first in the series to pass that rare benchmark.

Only 11 films have ever reached that level domestically, including “Avatar” at $760.5 million, “Titanic” at $600.8 million and “The Dark Knight” at $533.3 million.

“The Dark Knight” was the previous record-holder for opening weekends with a $158.4 million debut, though factoring in today’s higher admission prices, it sold more tickets than “Deathly Hallows: Part 2.”

Wildly acclaimed by critics, “The Dark Knight” held up better in subsequent weekends than most of Hollywood’s biggest debuts. The film’s domestic revenue slipped only 53 percent in its second weekend, while opening weekend accounted for just 29.7 percent of its total.

Like the recent “Harry Potter” films, Hollywood’s other top debuts took sharp drops in their second weekends. Revenues for 2007’s “Spider-Man 3” fell 62 percent in the second weekend, with the opening weekend accounting for 44.9 percent of total domestic income of $336.5 million. Earnings for 2009’s “The Twilight Saga: New Moon” dropped a whopping 70 percent in the second weekend, with the first weekend’s business amounting to nearly half of its $296.6 million total.

All-time box-office champ “Avatar” went the opposite route. It started with a big but unremarkable $77 million domestic debut weekend in December 2009. Its revenue the second weekend dropped a tiny 2 percent, while the opening weekend accounted for barely 10 percent of its eventual domestic total.

TOP TWENTY

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1. “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2,” Warner Bros., $169,189,427, one week.
2. “Transformers: Dark of the Moon,” Paramount, $21,328,545, three weeks.
3. “Horrible Bosses,” Warner Bros., $17,777,464, two weeks.
4. “Zookeeper,” Sony, $12,330,512, two weeks.
5. “Cars 2,” Disney, $8,407,529, four weeks.
6. “Winnie the Pooh,” Disney, $7,857,076, one week.
7. “Bad Teacher,” Sony, $5,152,447, four weeks.
8. “Larry Crowne,” Universal, $2,664,550, three weeks.
9. “Super 8,” Paramount, $1,970,377, six weeks.
10. “Midnight in Paris,” Sony Pictures Classics, $1,876,588, nine weeks.
11. “Bridesmaids,” Universal, $1,722,205, 10 weeks.
12. “Mr. Popper’s Penguins,” Fox, $1,368,355, five weeks.
13. “Green Lantern,” Warner Bros., $1,359,133, five weeks.
14. “Monte Carlo,” Fox, $1,318,448, three weeks.
15. “Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara,” Eros, $960,548, one week.
16. “X-Men: First Class,” Fox, $635,586, seven weeks.
17. “The Tree of Life,” Fox Searchlight, $626,723, eight weeks.
18. “The Hangover Part II,” Warner Bros., $504,803, eight weeks.
19. “Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides,” Disney, $493,155, nine weeks.
20. “Kung Fu Panda 2,” Paramount, $460,755, eight weeks.

EMMA WATSON: I’ll return to Brown next year

AP

British actress Emma Watson poses at St Pancras Renaissance Hotel in central London.

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—”Harry Potter” star Emma Watson says she plans to return to Brown University to complete her degree.

The British actress who plays Hermione Granger in the “Harry Potter” series tells The Virginian-Pilot that she remains enrolled at Brown even though she’ll study at England’s Oxford University in the fall.

She says intends to return to Providence in 2012 to complete her studies at the Ivy League school.

The 21-year-old Watson left Brown earlier this year, saying she wanted to devote her time to the final “Harry Potter” film and other acting opportunities.

The final chapter in the series premiered last week, setting box office records. It took in an estimated $168.6 million domestically from Friday to Sunday. That beats the previous best opening weekend of $158.4 million for 2008’s Batman blockbuster “The Dark Knight.”

Poll: ‘Jersey Shore’ not hurting New Jersey image

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. (AP)—Here’s the real situation: It turns out MTV’s “Jersey Shore” isn’t killing New Jersey’s reputation after all.

A new nationwide poll finds the reality show about a group of hard-drinking, foul-mouthed 20-somethings at a beach house in Seaside Heights, N.J., may even be helping a bit by bringing attention to the real Jersey shore.

The Fairleigh Dickinson University PublicMind poll, released Monday, found no statistical difference between those who have seen the show and those who haven’t.

It also found that the series is drawing attention to the state’s 127 miles of beaches and generating positive buzz for the Garden State as a whole.

“The show isn’t hurting the nation’s view of the state,” said Peter Woolley, director of the poll. “In fact, it may be promoting one of the state’s best features—not Snooki, but the shore itself. It seems to me viewers are looking past The Situation to the shore scene itself.”

The poll found that 43 percent of those who have seen the show have a favorable opinion of New Jersey, while 41 percent who’ve never seen it also think New Jersey is great.

Michelle Diaz of Philadelphia was strolling the Seaside Heights boardwalk Friday with two friends when they happened upon Mike “The Situation” Sorrentino during a break from that day’s taping of the show.

“A lot of people from other states think Jersey is trashy, but when you come here, it’s a totally different scene,” she said.

“It’s a really beautiful beach here,” added Patricia Garcia, also of Philadelphia. “We love it here.”

They engaged Sorrentino in a brief conversation that soon took an interesting turn.

“I told him I got my stuff pierced—you know, my own situation,” Garcia said. “He said he wanted to see it.”

She politely declined.

Daniel Sajewski and Rafael Kieliszelic, both of Toronto, Canada, said the show makes New Jersey more interesting to people from elsewhere.

“Straight up? I love New Jersey!” Sajewski said. “It’s (expletive) beautiful. What else can I say about a place like this. It’s just beautiful.”

A year ago, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie trashed the show, calling it “negative for New Jersey.”

He told a TV interviewer the show “takes a bunch of New Yorkers, drops them at the Jersey Shore and tries to make America feel like this is New Jersey.” Most of the cast members are from New York; two are from New Jersey.

Christie’s press secretary, Michael Drewniak, told The Associated Press that the poll doesn’t change the governor’s opinion of the show.

“Honestly, I don’t think the poll refutes the point that Snooki and company do not represent real New Jerseyans, the Jersey Shore or New Jersey in any way,” he said. “Or that they are an embarrassment.”

Regardless of who has seen the show and who hasn’t, the poll found that overall, 41 percent of Americans have a favorable view of New Jersey, while 18 have an unfavorable view. Forty percent have mixed views or are unsure.

Among Midwesterners, New Jersey got a 37 percent favorable rating, with 17 percent giving the state a thumbs-down. The South and the West both approve of New Jersey by 41-15 percent margins.

Perhaps the most surprising result of the poll was that 69 percent of those surveyed had not seen an episode of “Jersey Shore.”

The nationwide poll of 711 adults was conducted by telephone using land lines and cell phones from March 21 through March 27. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

“Jersey Shore” is currently filming its fourth season in Seaside Heights, where the series began. It also has included stops in Miami and Italy in previous seasons.

Charlie Sheen aims to be winning in a new sitcom

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charlie Sheen in a TV comedy about anger management. How can it miss?

That's what the actor and several established companies are betting with "Anger Management," a sitcom announced Monday. What the show needs now is a network or syndication home, along with a more tranquil work history than Sheen left behind at "Two and a Half Men."

Sheen, 45, who was fired from the CBS sitcom by studio Warner Bros. Television because of his erratic personal life and public ridicule of the show's producer, will be answering in part to himself on the new series.

He will have a significant ownership stake in the series, producer Lionsgate Television said in a statement. He will also gain "a certain amount of creative control," Sheen noted in the release.

"I chose `Anger Management' because, while it might be a big stretch for me to play a guy with serious anger management issues, I think it is a great concept," he said.

The series, based on the 2003 Adam Sandler-Jack Nicholson movie, will be shopped to prospective broadcast and cable networks by Lionsgate subsidiary Debmar-Mercury.

Sheen

Analyst Bill Carroll of Katz Media speculated that the series would start on cable for initial exposure and then move to cable and broadcast syndication. That's the model used by Debmar-Mercury on the Ice Cube comedy series "Are We There Yet?" along with "Tyler Perry's House of Payne" and "Meet the Browns," all of which air on TBS.

Despite Sheen's stormy final chapter with CBS and Warner, cable and broadcast outlets will have to give his new project "serious consideration" given his past success, Carroll said.

Pointing to Sheen's ownership position in the new series, Carroll added, "You have to assume that's going to motivate his focus on the show," Carroll said.

That was acknowledged, in similar words, in the announcement.

"Our sitcom model is all about building well-known brands around extraordinary talents like Charlie that, thanks to their large profit participation, are highly motivated to succeed," said Debmar-Mercury co-presidents Mort Marcus and Ira Bernstein.

Sheen's former reported salary of $1.8 million an episode—among the highest for a TV actor—didn't deter him from derailing his relationship with CBS, Warner and, most explosively, with Chuck Lorre, the creator and executive producer of "Two and a Half Men."

After deriding Lorre as a clown, a loser and a "contaminated little maggot," Sheen's bosses in turn blasted him for his unpredictable behavior as a drug-abusing, reckless playboy. The actor didn't relent, keeping up his tirades in his media blitz and during a live concert tour that popularized terms including "warlock" and "tiger blood."

Sheen was fired by Warner in March and filed a $100 million breach of contract lawsuit against the studio and Lorre shortly afterward.

In May, Ashton Kutcher was announced to replace Sheen in "Men," TV's most-watched sitcom, which returns this fall for its ninth season with the remaining cast intact (Jon Cryer and Angus T. Jones).

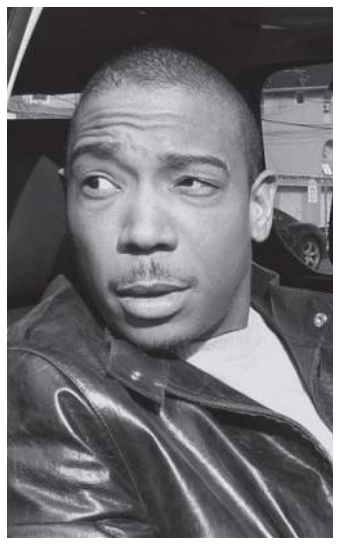
Sheen's new producer, Revolution Studios founder Joe Roth, has worked successfully with him before. Their five feature films together include "Major League," "Young Guns" and "Three Musketeers." Sheen welcomed the chance to be back in business with Roth, whom he called "one of my favorite movie producers of all time."

Rapper Ja Rule sentenced in tax return case

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Rapper and actor Ja Rule was sentenced Monday to more than two years in federal prison for failing to file income tax returns, and said a combination of youthful inexperience, bad advice and an inability to manage fame and fortune lead to his financial troubles.

"I in no way attempted to deceive the government or do anything illegal," he said, minutes before being sentenced in a New Jersey federal court. "I was a young man who made a lot of money—I'm getting a little choked up—I didn't know how to deal with these finances, and I didn't have people to guide me, so I made mistakes."

The multiplatinum-selling artist, whose real name is Jeffrey Atkins, admitted in March that he failed to pay taxes on more than $3 million that he earned between 2004 and 2006 while living in Saddle River. Although he pleaded guilty to three counts of unfiled taxes, he admitted he hadn't filed for five years, according to U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman.


AP
In this March 22, 2011 file photo, Rapper Ja Rule, left, is shown outside Martin Luther King, Jr. Courthouse after pleading guilty to federal tax evasion charges in Newark, N.J.

Ja Rule was sentenced in New York City last month to up to two years in prison after he pleaded guilty to attempted criminal weapon possession. The case stemmed from a gun found in his car in 2007. Police said they stopped Ja Rule's $250,000-plus Maybach sports car for speeding and found a loaded .40-caliber semiautomatic gun in a rear door. The gun wasn't registered. He was charged under a New York law that generally bars people from having firearms outside their homes or workplaces.

In the federal case, U.S. Magistrate Patty Shwartz in Newark ruled that the majority of his 28-month federal sentence could be served at the same time as the New York state prison sentence.

Depending on his release date for his New York sentence—he could serve as little as 18 months in that case by meeting good behavior requirements and other standards—he could serve from four to 12 months of the federal sentence. The federal time will be served at the Oneida Correctional Facility in upstate New York, where he is serving the state sentence.

He has also been ordered to pay $1.1 million in unpaid taxes.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Mack had asked the judge not to let Ja Rule off with no jail time on the federal charges, saying a message had to be sent.

"The court should impose the same sentence it would impose on someone who is not a celebrity," Mack said.

Now 35, Ja Rule first emerged as a hardcore rapper in the late 1990s but then became known for his collaborations with female pop singers, including Jennifer Lopez and Ashanti. He scored a best rap album Grammy Award nomination in 2002 with "Pain Is Love" and has sold nearly 20 million albums during his career.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Songwriter of hits by Rolling Stones, Joplin dies

NEW YORK (AP)—Jerry Ragovoy, a songwriter credited with songs made famous by the Rolling Stones, Janis Joplin and others, has died at the age of 80. Ragovoy died last week at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City. Jim Steinblatt, a representative for the performance rights group ASCAP, says he died of complications from a stroke. Among some of Ragovoy's most famous tunes were "Time Is On My Side" by the Rolling Stones, "Piece of My Heart" by Janis Joplin and "Pata, Pata" by Miriam Makeba. Some of his songs were credited to a pseudonym, Norman Meade. Over the years, his songs were recorded by greats like Elvis Presley, B.B. King and Aretha Franklin. Ragovoy also was a producer for artists including Diana Ross and Dionne Warwick.

Trail around Metallica singer's land moves ahead

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (AP)—Work is under way on a Northern California hiking trail being built at a cost of more than $650,000 to bypass the home of Metallica front man James Hetfield. The Marin Independent Journal reports that the 3-mile trail connecting two open space preserves north of San Francisco is set to be finished as early as September. The new path stems from a 2008 dispute in which Hetfield erected a metal fence blocking a portion of the old trail running through in Marin County land. He complained trail users were damaging his property. Marin officials say the rocker has been accommodating to the new project, allowing trail builders to use his road for access to the site. The newspaper says the trail's high cost resulted from environmental reviews, design work, materials and equipment.

New FX drama 'American Horror Story' set for fall

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An "American Horror Story" is coming to TV. The FX channel said Monday it has ordered 13 episodes of a new drama it says has "reinvented the horror genre." The show is from the producers of "Nip/Tuck" and "Glee." "American Horror Story" stars Dylan McDermott ("The Practice") and Connie Britton ("Friday Night Lights") as a couple who move their family from Boston to Los Angeles to, as FX put it, "reconcile past anguish." The drama also features Oscar-winning star Jessica Lange ("Tootsie," "Blue Sky") in her first regular TV series role, along with Frances Conroy of "Six Feet Under." "American Horror Story" was co-created by executive producers Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk. The drama begins production in Los Angeles next week and is set to premiere on FX in October.

Teen 'squares' show courage when they learn to say no

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My best friend, "Brianna," often invites me to big parties at her older friends' homes. At first I was thrilled because I'm only 15. At the parties I saw some people doing bad things—but I didn't, at first.

Soon, Brianna pressured me into doing some things that I didn't feel comfortable doing. My parents are very strict about these things, and I knew it was wrong. I have tried to get out of going to the parties, but Brianna says bad things to me. I have even had to lie to my parents about where I'm going.

Every girl my age wants to go to these parties, but I don't. Am I weird for not wanting to get involved in inappropriate things? I'm afraid if I stand up to Brianna, she'll make everyone hate me. Please help. What should I do?

FEELING PRESSURED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR FEELING PRESSURED: You're not weird, and "every" girl your age does NOT want to attend the parties you have mentioned. You appear to be a lot more intelligent than your "friend" Brianna, who sounds more like a bully than a friend.

Because Brianna does things that could land her in serious trouble doesn't mean that you should do them.

As I say in my booklet, "What Every Teen Should Know": "... when it comes to being enticed into acts that are senseless, dangerous, illegal or immoral, it's the 'squares,' the kids who care about their reputations (and their school and/or police records), who really show courage by saying, 'No thanks, I'll pass.'"

Today, it's not unusual to hear about teens engaging in adult activities at much younger ages than the teenagers of previous generations. That is why it is so important for parents (and guardians) to take the time to discuss alcohol, drugs, sex and family values with their children well before they start experimenting.

My teen booklet provides the answers to frequently asked questions such as: How old must a girl be before she can get pregnant? Can she get pregnant the first time she has sex? What time of the month is a girl 100 percent safe? How old must a boy be before he can father a child? Another important topic that's included is how to avoid date rape and what to do if it happens. To order "What Every Teen Should Know," send your name and address, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds), to Dear Abby Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. My booklet also contains information on contraception and sexually transmitted diseases and how to recognize them. It has been distributed in doctors' offices and used to promote discussion by educators and religious leaders, and is often used by parents who find it difficult to discuss sex with their children.

DEAR ABBY: There's a question I have been pondering for years and I have never seen it addressed in your column. Which came first, the chicken sandwich or the egg salad? I need to make a decision soon.

CHICKEN LOVER IN PORTLAND, ORE.

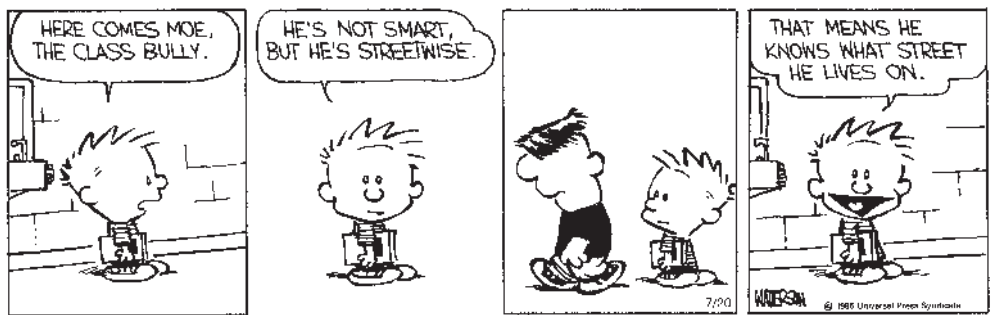
DEAR CHICKEN LOVER: Your question is out of my area of expertise because I'm a peanut butter-and-jelly girl. But I know baloney when I'm handed a portion, so chew on that until you figure out the answer.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

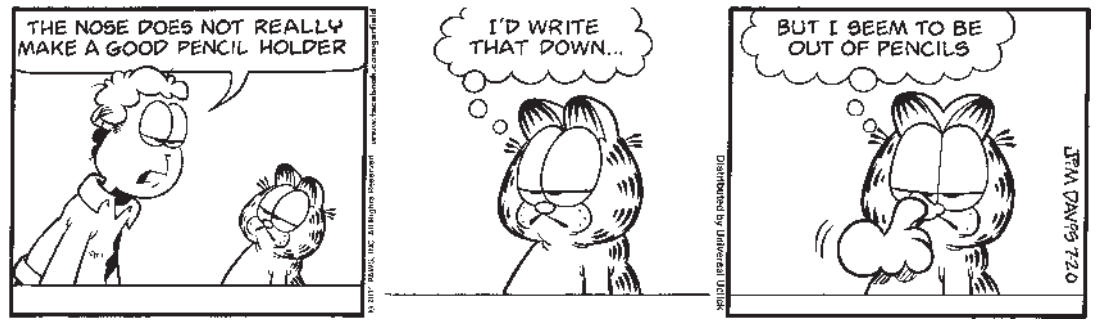
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE COMES MOE, THE CLASS BULLY.
HE'S NOT SMART, BUT HE'S STREETWISE.
THAT MEANS HE KNOWS WHAT STREET HE LIVES ON.
WATTERSON
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


THE NOSE DOES NOT REALLY MAKE A GOOD PENCIL HOLDER
I'D WRITE THAT DOWN...
BUT I SEEM TO BE OUT OF PENCILS
JIM DAVIS 7/20
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I'M SERIOUS, LAURA. I'M FIGHTING THIS TRAFFIC CAMERA TICKET IN COURT.
GO FOR IT.
I'M GOING TO GIVE THEM EVERYTHING I'VE GOT... AND THEN SOME.
AND I'LL BE LAUGHING LAST BECAUSE I HAVE A SECRET WEAPON.
A SECRET WEAPON?
WHERE'S MY TOP HAT?
© 2011 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT'CHA WATCHING?
IT'S SOME NEW REALITY SHOW CALLED "FINDING BIGFOOT".
AUGGHH!! GROWL! HELP!! OH, DEAR LOR... NASH: SNARL...
FOUND HIM.
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

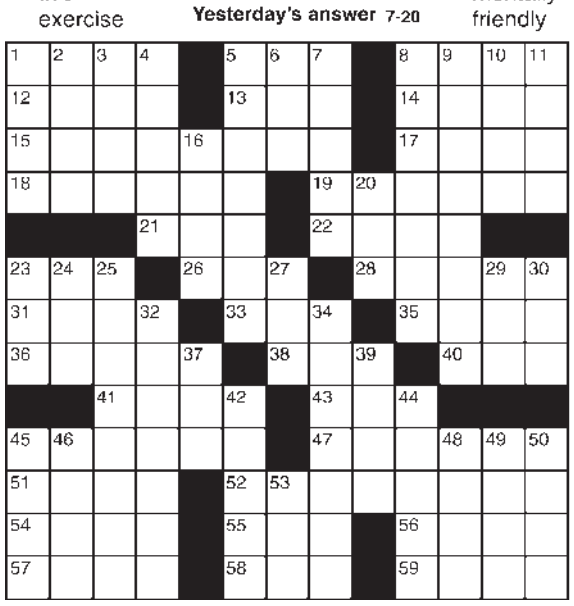
ACROSS
1 Greek cheese
5 Chatroom chuckling
8 Birds, to Brutus
12 Shakespeare's river
13 Anger
14 Bound
15 Backbone
17 Killer whale
18 Store grain
19 Slow tree-dwellers
21 Round Table address
22 Stereo hookup
23 Restroom, for short
26 $ dispenser
28 "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
31 Detail
33 Thee
35 Meditative exercise
36 See-through wrap
38 Switch positions
40 Sauce source
41 Trampled (on)
43 Witnessed
45 Twist in pain
47 Adhere
51 Risque
52 Upright
54 Always
55 6-Down's surface
56 Gloomy
57 Untouchable Eliot
58 Despondent
59 Coop group

DOWN
1 No. 1 choice (Sl.)
2 Divisible by two
3 Rocky peaks
4 Those opposed
5 Freedom
6 Bobby of hockey lore
7 Dog walker's need
8 Without friendliness
9 Dizzying symptoms
10 Apiece
11 Hot tubs
16 Director Kazan
20 Falsehood
23 Fleur-de- —
24 One-time link
25 Polygonal points
27 Cattle call?
29 In bygone days
30 Shaft of light
32 Constant sufferers
34 Remove a lightbulb
37 Japanese theater
39 Sodium chloride
42 Beelzebub
44 Consider
45 Small songbird
46 Carry on
48 Farm fraction
49 Futile
50 "Desire Under the —"
53 Environmentally friendly

Solution time: 21 mins.

F	I	L	L	■	S	H	Y	■	C	A	B	S
A	R	E	A	■	L	E	D	■	O	G	R	E
C	O	N	C	E	A	L	S	■	N	E	A	P
E	N	S	■	R	I	P	■	A	S	S	E	T
■	■	■	C	O	N	■	D	D	T	■	■	■
A	L	T	O	S	■	M	I	S	R	E	A	D
R	E	I	N	■	P	A	X	■	U	G	L	Y
M	I	S	S	I	O	N	■	S	C	O	P	E
■	■	■	T	N	T	■	J	O	T	■	■	■
S	P	O	R	K	■	W	O	N	■	P	O	I
H	O	P	I	■	C	O	N	G	E	A	L	S
O	P	E	C	■	O	V	A	■	G	I	G	A
D	E	N	T	■	Y	E	S	■	G	R	A	Y

Yesterday's answer 7-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julianne Hough, 23; Sandra Oh, 40; Josh Holloway, 42; Carlos Santana, 64.

Happy Birthday: Feeling content is the name of the game this year. Your unique approach to problems and unusual suggestions will be highly regarded. Speak up—it's your turn to make a difference and to show that you have something special to contribute. Opportunity will lead to an interesting position that is lasting. Your numbers are 7, 10, 19, 22, 31, 35, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll be quick-thinking, but if you act too fast, you will be faced with opposition that might lead to minor injury. Cool, calculated strategy with precise execution will bring the best results and should help please everyone who is watching. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): This is a great day to fix up your digs or relax with friends or neighbors. Socializing and networking will lead to interesting communication, as well as unexpected opportunity. Keep spending and overindulging to a minimum. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Greater involvement in a cause you believe in will lead to meeting someone who stimulates your mind and gets you thinking about financial possibilities. Uncertainty is apparent in your personal life due to a change of heart or direction. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Your desire to help others will lead to exhaustion. Try not to take on so much that you leave yourself little time to rest. Don't make a sudden move professionally because you feel pressured. Take your time and look at your options. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be busy running about, meeting people and, most of all, trying to bring order to the multitasking you've been trying to juggle. You'll be the center of attention and can use this opportunity to invite others to pitch in and help. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Demands will be made professionally that will cause problems for you personally. Don't feel obliged to take on responsibilities that you feel are unfair. You need to pay more attention to your home and family. Everything else can wait. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Problems at home or with someone you love will develop if you don't see eye to eye on a change you want to make. It is best to back away and give each other space. Personal growth will result from interacting with new acquaintances. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Relaxing and enjoying your favorite people should be your intent. Use your imagination to come up with a plan that will benefit you personally and help make your environment user-friendly. Love is on the rise, and a special evening should be planned. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Live, learn, laugh and be happy. Engage in entertaining events that allow you to expand your circle of friends and your knowledge. The more enthusiasm you bring to a group, the greater your say will be when it's time to make a joint decision. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You will face all sorts of setbacks, last-minute changes and people who are not on the same page as you. You will do your best focusing on investments and changing important personal papers. Don't let any problem fester. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put effort into stabilizing your finances and lowering your stress. Networking will pay off if you discuss what you have to offer. Get promises in writing or you may be disappointed by the outcome. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Making a move abruptly, without giving sufficient thought to what you will do next, will lead to anxiety. Problems at home and at work will get you down, but getting out with a friend who understands your situation will ease your stress. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You express your thoughts uniquely. You are persistent, aggressive and willful regarding your beliefs.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4	2	3				9	7
		7	9	1		5	8	
				7		2		
			7	9	5			
		5				1		
3	2		6				5	
2							3	
	7	1	5				6	
			8	2			7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	2	8	1	4	5	6	3	7
6	5	4	7	2	3	1	9	8
1	7	3	8	6	9	2	4	5
5	3	7	2	9	6	4	8	1
2	8	6	4	3	1	5	7	9
4	1	9	5	8	7	3	2	6
3	4	1	6	7	8	9	5	2
8	6	2	9	5	4	7	1	3
7	9	5	3	1	2	8	6	4

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PRESIDENT NICOLAS SARKOZY **Solution: 8 letters**

P	W	P	J	P	E	O	P	L	E	E	S	Y	L	(E)
F	A	E	A	G	Y	A	M	S	V	A	L	R	A	(C)
I	A	R	A	L	U	E	C	I	V	M	R	U	D	(N)
N	I	S	L	L	A	I	T	A	O	O	E	L	I	(A)
S	C	A	H	I	T	C	L	V	R	D	D	E	D	(R)
F	R	U	F	I	A	H	E	L	G	E	A	R	N	(F)
R	C	P	L	R	O	M	I	R	A	L	E	A	A	E
E	N	O	E	I	E	N	E	E	I	U	L	R	C	N
N	P	P	M	N	O	E	A	N	S	P	M	O	R	A
C	Y	U	T	M	K	L	D	E	T	T	N	E	O	T
H	B	L	S	T	U	L	I	O	P	O	V	S	Y	I
M	R	A	S	R	O	N	O	H	M	O	I	E	A	O
A	U	R	T	C	E	L	E	Y	G	X	R	R	M	N
N	N	G	A	U	L	L	I	S	T	L	O	U	I	S
M	I	L	I	T	A	N	T	H	B	U	D	G	E	T

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Bruni, Budget, Candid, Career, Carla, Communes, Culioli, Economy, Elect, Elysee, European, Fashion, France, Freedom, Frenchman, Gaullist, Govern, Greek, Guillaume, Honors, Hyperactive, Jean, Leader, Local, Louis, Mayor, Militant, Model, Movement, Nation, Palace, Paris, Parliament, Paul, People, Plan, Politics, Popular, Rally, Ruler, Sixth, Vice, Wealthiest

Yesterday's Answer: Beloved

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Dai Wei
P.O. Box 504849 XMB 118
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 483-4011

Pro Se,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DAI WEI Petitioner,	]	**FCD CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0065**
vs.	]	
ZHANG YUNZHONG Respondent.	]	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:
ZHANG YUNZHONG

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is **P.O. Box 504849 XMB 118 Saipan, MP 96950** as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2011.

/s/Clerk of Court

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WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: Jul. 15, 2011 **POSITION:** Accounting Supervisor/Assistant Manager
CLOSE DATE: Jul. 22, 2011 **SALARY:** $6.00 - $7.50/per hour

Qualifications: Graduate from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in accounting or a closely related field and three (3) years of professional accounting experience with supervisory experience required. Knowledge of Opera System preferred. CPA strongly recommended but not required.

OPEN DATE: Jul. 15, 2011 **POSITION:** Prim/Lifeguard
CLOSE DATE: Jul. 22, 2011 **SALARY:** $5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and First-aid and lifeguard certifications preferred, but not required. Sports, recreation, and hospitality industry experience also a plus.

OPEN DATE: Jul. 15, 2011 **POSITION:** Purchasing Agent
CLOSE DATE: Jul. 22, 2011 **SALARY:** $5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and one (1) year work experience in Purchasing (or related field) and customer service experience required. Knowledge of MS Office. Strong proficiency in Microsoft Excel highly recommended.

OPEN DATE: Jul. 15, 2011 **POSITION:** Chef (Korean Cuisine)
CLOSE DATE: Jul. 22, 2011 **SALARY:** $6.00- $7.00/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and at least (3) year work experience and knowledge in Korean Cuisine and customer service experience required. Experience and knowledge in preparing for banquet a plus.

OPEN DATE: Jul. 15, 2011 **POSITION:** Spa Attendant
CLOSE DATE: Jul. 22, 2011 **SALARY:** $5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and at least one (1) year work experience and some knowledge of fitness equipment. Customer service experience required.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Office at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/575

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete applications will not be considered for the position.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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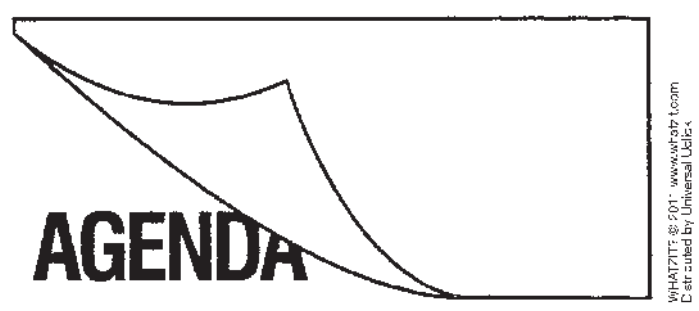

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Halladay leaves game as Cubs beat Phillies

CHICAGO (AP)—Aramis Ramirez and Carlos Pena homered to back a dominant start by Rodrigo Lopez, and Chicago beat Philadelphia 6-1 on Monday night as Phillies ace Roy Halladay left the game because of the heat.

Halladay doubled over and was visited by a trainer after Starlin Castro led off the fifth inning with a single. Drew Carpenter came in to replace him.

Halladay was drenched in sweat on a humid night in which the game-time temperature was 91. The heat clearly affected him.

He gave up three runs and seven hits and took his first loss since May 15.

This was Halladay's shortest outing since he pitched three innings for Toronto against Florida on June 12, 2009.

Ramirez gave the Cubs a 1-0 lead in the first with his 17th homer. Chicago added two runs in the third on Ramirez's bases-loaded sacrifice fly and Pena's RBI single.

Lopez gave up a leadoff homer to Jimmy Rollins(notes) in the fourth. He allowed five hits in 6 2-3 innings.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies center fielder Michael Martinez, left, catches Chicago Cubs' Starlin Castro stealing third base during the fifth inning of a baseball game Monday, July 18, 2011 in Chicago.

Pirates 2, Reds 0

At Pittsburgh, Charlie Morton pitched five innings and Pittsburgh moved into first place in the NL Central.

Pittsburgh kicked off an important two-week stretch by shutting down the Reds after Morton (8-5) extricated himself from a bases-loaded jam in the first inning following a lengthy rain delay to win for the first time since June 15.

The right-hander gave up three hits, striking out three and walking two. Joel Hanrahan pitched the ninth for his 27th save as Pittsburgh moved a half-game ahead of Milwaukee in the division.

Dontrelle Willis (0-1) pitched well in his second start since being called up from Triple-A. The former All-Star surrendered two runs in 4 2-3 innings, striking out five and walking just one.

Chase d'Arnaud and Neil Walker led off the fourth with singles. Andrew McCutchen brought d'Arnaud home on an RBI groundout and Walker scored on Matt Diaz's sacrifice fly.

Diamondbacks 3, Brewers 0

At Phoenix, Arizona's Josh Collmenter pitched eight innings of three-hit ball for his first win in six weeks.

The right-hander retired 21 of his last 22 batters in the longest outing of his rookie season. Yuniesky Betancourt reached on a bunt single leading off the sixth for Milwaukee's only hit during the stretch.

Collmenter (5-5) struck out a career-best seven and walked none while running his scoreless streak to 14 innings, all against the Brewers over his last two starts. Ryan Roberts homered for the second straight day and David Hernandez finished for his ninth save in 11 chances.

Randy Wolf (6-7) pitched 7 1-3 innings for Milwaukee and was charged with three runs, two earned, and eight hits. The left-hander is 0-3 with a 4.94 ERA in his last four starts, including two losses against the Diamondbacks.

Nationals 5, Astros 2

At Houston, Michael Morse and Ryan Zimmerman homered and Zimmerman drove in the go-ahead run in the ninth inning for Washington.

Laynce Nix added two insurance runs with an RBI single after Zimmerman's hit in the ninth off Houston starter Jordan Lyles (0-5).

The rookie allowed five hits and four runs with six strikeouts in the longest outing of his career to remain winless in ninth career start.

Morse homered in the fifth inning and Zimmerman's came in the seventh.

Washington starter Jason Marquis (8-4) yielded six hits and two runs with a season high-tying nine strikeouts to get his first win since June 10.

Marlins 4, Mets 1

At New York, Clay Hensley came off the disabled list to win his first major league start in three years for Florida.

Mike Stanton hit a two-run double and slumping Mike Cameron followed with an RBI single for the Marlins, who have won nine of 10.

Florida improved to 15-9 under 80-year-old manager Jack McKeon, who took over after Edwin Rodriguez abruptly resigned late in the team's 1-19 June swoon.

In the makeup of a May 17 rainout, Hensley (1-2) allowed one hit over five scoreless innings against a depleted Mets lineup. It was his 41st big league start—but first since July 24, 2008, for San Diego at Pittsburgh. The right-hander made 20 relief appearances this season before a sprained shoulder sidelined him June 1.

A double by Willie Harris in the first inning was the only hit given up by Hensley, who struck out three and walked two in an 84-pitch outing. Michael Dunn, Edward Mujica, Randy Choate, and Leo Nunez completed the three-hitter.

Braves 7, Rockies 4

At Denver, Atlanta's Freddie Freeman homered and drove in three runs and Derek Lowe handcuffed Colorado over 6 1-3 innings.

Lowe's grounder to third in the second inning resulted in a two-run error on first baseman Todd Helton, who lost the throw in the setting sun, and ignited the Braves' fifth win in five tries over the Rockies this month.

Lowe (6-7) gave up four runs and eight hits, leaving with a 7-2 lead.

Rookie Craig Kimbrel recorded his 16th straight scoreless appearance, striking out the side in the ninth for his 29th save in 34 chances.

Jason Hammel (5-9) allowed six runs, four earned, and eight hits in five innings.

Red Sox 15, Orioles 10

At Baltimore, Dustin Pedroia doubled in two runs to spark an eight-run eighth inning, and Boston got home runs from Jarrod Saltalamacchia and Josh Reddick in a 15-10 rout of Baltimore on Monday night.

Pedroia, Kevin Youkilis and Darnell McDonald had three RBIs apiece for the Red Sox, who have won 13 of 15. The run includes a 16-inning, 1-0 win over Tampa Bay on Sunday night in which Boston had only five hits.

The Red Sox had 16 hits in their seventh straight victory over the Orioles. Boston has outscored Baltimore 61-32 during that span.

Yankees 5, Rays 4

At Florida, Russell Martin drew a bases-loaded walk with two outs in the top of the ninth to give New York the win.

Robinson Cano, Mark Teixeira, Brett Gardner and Eduardo Nunez also drove in runs for the second-place Yankees, who rallied from a 4-1 deficit to remain 1 1/2 games behind Boston in the AL East.

Rookie left-hander Alex Torres (0-1) yielded the winning run in his major league debut after New York loaded the bases on Curtis Granderson's single, an intentional walk to Nick Swisher and another walk to Andruw Jones.

Indians 5, Twins 2, 1st game
Indians 6, Twins 3, 2nd game

At Minneapolis, Lou Marson hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the seventh inning and Cleveland completed a doubleheader sweep with a 6-3 victory over Minnesota, kicking off a four-game series with two wins.

Marson doubled and scored in the fifth against Scott Diamond, who was making his major league debut for Minnesota. Fausto Carmona (5-10) came off the disabled list and won for only the second time in his last 12 starts, allowing two runs in six innings.

Asdrubal Cabrera hit a three-run homer to lift the Indians to a 5-2 win in the first game and added an RBI single in the second.

The Twins fell seven games behind the Indians.

Travis Hafner had two hits and two RBIs in the second game, and Michael Brantleyfinished with five hits.

White Sox 5, Royals 2

At Kansas City, Mark Buerhle lasted seven innings in another impressive start, and Chicago capitalized on an error by Kansas City shortstop Alcides Escobar.

Buehrle (7-5) hasn't allowed more than three earned runs in his last 14 starts dating to April 22. The veteran left-hander allowed five hits while winning for the first time since June 9. Buehrle struck out three and walked one.

Kyle Davies (1-9) was saddled with his eighth consecutive loss. Davies hasn't won since beating Minnesota on April 13 and is 0-3 since going on the disabled list with inflammation in his right rotator cuff. He set a career high with nine strikeouts in 5 1-3 innings.

Cycling chief: Positive test not such a bad thing

SAINT-PAUL-TROIS-CHATEAUX, France (AP)—The head of cycling's governing body says a positive drug test or two at the Tour de France wouldn't necessarily be a "bad thing" as it would suggest anti-doping efforts are working.

International Cycling Union president Pat McQuaid tells The Associated Press that if cycling's premier race went two years without a positive test, then "you'd probably say there must be something going wrong here."

McQuaid spoke Monday on the Tour's second rest day before riders set off toward the Alps and the Paris finish on Sunday.

McQuaid says the fact that unheralded Thomas Voeckler is leading with several riders close behind suggests the sport is becoming cleaner, however he doubts cheating will ever be totally eradicated.

The Tour, which just a few years ago was plagued by numerous doping cases and suspicions of cheating, has just one positive test in this edition.

Alexandr Kolobnev dropped out of the Tour last week after the UCI said a urine sample collected from the Russian rider on the day of Stage 5 tested positive for hydrochlorothiazide—a banned diuretic that can also be used as a masking agent.

McQuaid said the fact that unheralded Thomas Voeckler of France is leading the Tour—with several riders close behind—suggested the sport is becoming cleaner, but he doubts cheating will ever be totally eradicated.

"I don't think it's ever possible, not just in cycling but in any sport, that you're going to get no cheaters," McQuaid said, adding that an isolated positive test isn't a cause for panic.

"It's not a bad thing, it shows that the system's working, it shows that you're catching people, and it shows that if a rider does take a product that is an illegal product that it can be caught and found in the system," he said.

The UCI, in coordination with France's anti-doping agency, is conducting hundreds of anti-doping tests during the race. Some cyclists have complained about the intense testing regime, though many others accept the controls.

"I read that a rider said yesterday he had had three controls in 24 hours, there's a reason for that," McQuaid told reporters. "The reason is that the UCI continues to look (for cheaters)—and if necessary with two or three checks a day."

Three-time Tour champion Alberto Contador tested positive during last year's Tour for the banned muscle builder clenbuterol. He's been allowed to ride because sport's arbitration body hasn't ruled on his case yet.

Contador is currently seventh overall, 4 minutes behind Voeckler. The Spaniard could be stripped of all his titles back to last July if the Court of Arbitration for Sport rules against him next month.

Also Monday, McQuaid said the UCI is in talks toward a "compromise" with the professional cycling teams' association over its threat to boycott the Tour of Beijing in October if a looming ban next year on race radios isn't overturned.

The Association of Professional Cyclists argues radio communication is needed to improve riders' safety during races. The UCI says it distorts the true nature of the sport.

Fans give 'Nadeshiko Japan' a hero's welcome

NARITA, Japan (AP)—Thousands of joyous, flag-waving fans greeted the Japan women's football team as the players arrived home Tuesday morning after beating the United States in the World Cup final.

Two fire trucks shot out celebratory arches of water over the team's aircraft as it approached the terminal at Tokyo's Narita Airport.

Throngs of fans wearing the team's dark blue colors greeted the players as they made their way into the terminal

A nation reeling from months of tragedy has been united in joyous celebration after a team nicknamed "Nadeshiko"—for a pink mountain flower—became the first from Asia to win the biggest prize in women's football.

Goalkeeper Ayumi Kaihori, one of the stars of Sunday's win, was the first to come through the terminal. The rest of the team, wearing their medals, followed as cameras flashed and fans shouted "Omedeto Gozaimasu"—or congratulations.

The March 11 earthquake and tsunami left nearly 23,000 people dead or missing and caused partial meltdowns at a nuclear power plant that added to the tragedy.

Japan's players used the disasters as motivation throughout the tournament, viewing images of the devastation from their homeland before some matches.

Before the final, the team unfurled a banner reading "To our Friends Around the World—Thank You for Your Support."

Japan became the first Asian nation to win the Women's World Cup, beating the Americans in a penalty shootout after a 2-2 draw.

Everyone from Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan to evacuees in the hardest-hit areas of the tragedy have praised the team for giving Japan inspiration in difficult times.

Japanese national women's soccer team's Miho Fukumoto walks with the trophy upon the team's arrival to Japan at Narita International Airport in Narita, east of Tokyo, Tuesday, July 19, 2011. Japan beat the U.S. in the final match at the Women's Soccer World Cup in Frankfurt, Germany on Sunday.

AP

Women's World Cup final watched by 13.5 million

BRISTOL, Conn. (AP)—The Women's World Cup final has earned the highest television rating for any soccer game on an ESPN network.

Japan's comeback to beat the United States in a penalty shootout Sunday drew a 7.4 fast national rating. The previous high was a 4.0 for last year's U.S.-Algeria men's World Cup match.

With an average of almost 13.5 million viewers, it was the sixth most watched soccer telecast ever in the United States. The record is still held by the 1999 Women's World Cup final, which had an 11.4 rating.

Ratings measure the percentage of all households with televisions tuned into a program.

Meanwhile, in New York, one by one, tired and disappointed members of the U.S Women's World Cup team trudged off the bus and were greeted with cheers and waves from appreciative fans who didn't seem to mind a bit that they came up short of a championship.

About 24 hours after the Americans squandered a pair of late one-goal leads and were beaten in penalty kicks by Japan in the tournament's final game Sunday, they arrived from Germany to Newark, N.J., and heard the first rounds of applause Monday.

From there they took a police-escorted bus ride into Manhattan and encountered a few hundred fans who waited on the sidewalk in sweltering heat to welcome them back to friendly turf.

"Really humbling, and truthfully it's probably brought my spirits up more than anything else could have," Abby Wambach said. "I am so disappointed for my teammates, myself. I am so disappointed for our country because I really feel like we had it. It was so close.

"Coming home to this kind of reception is truly one of the best things that has ever happened."

It started before they even gathered their luggage at the airport. Fans met them there, and often stuffy security personnel posed for pictures instead of worrying about patdowns.

Many passers-by who encountered a crowd of reporters and television cameras in front of the team's New York hotel stuck around once they heard the squad that captured the nation's attention the past few weeks would soon be arriving.

"We're hoping it's not just bandwagon fans," goalkeeper Hope Solo said. "We're hoping that we gain some longevity, and I think we did. I am not surprised by it because I know that we women can play, we can fight. There is such a strong mental spirit among the team, and it's a special team. I am not surprised that people are jumping on the bandwagon.

"I am hoping I get out of my funk in a little bit because we have Olympic qualifications. I am taking it pretty hard right now. You've just got to take it one step at a time. That is what we do as athletes. You bounce back up and go at it again."

While many players will rejoin their Women's Professional Soccer teams, collectively this group is already looking ahead to the 2012 Olympics in London. While they still need to qualify for that tournament, they are expected to and will be looking to repeat their 2008 gold medal.

"This one will sting," Heather O'Reilly said. "I don't think we will ever forget this loss, but hopefully we have another chance. With the Olympics right around the corner, we're going to be back into our training regimen right away."

Nothing will take away all the hurt from Sunday's loss except a World Cup victory in four years.

"It's all how the media wants to spin it," Solo said. "Everyone talked about 2007 for me, World Cup experience and wanting redemption in 2011. But everyone failed to remember that we won the Olympic goal in `08. So when it comes to World Cups and Olympics, nobody seems to compare them.

"I want a World Cup trophy four years from now and I want an Olympic gold medal, but it's completely different."

Most of the players managed to smile some upon their arrival, even while talking about the bitter defeat.

Before they get back on the field, there will still be public appearances on tap as the excitement of the World Cup winds down. Solo, Wambach and Megan Rapinoe will make appearances on ABC News "Good Morning America" on Tuesday, and Solo and Wambach will be on "Late Show With David Letterman" at night.

"At some point we are going to all need some rest," Carli Lloyd said. "It's been pretty much three, four years of just going straight."

Club execs to be briefed if NFL deal OK'd

NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL told club executives they could be schooled in the ins and outs of the new labor contract as early as Thursday, and the players' association summoned its leadership for a potential vote - the strongest signs yet the lockout might be nearing an end.

Lawyers for both sides met 8 1/2 hours Monday in New York, including 3 1/2 with a court-appointed mediator, to try to close a deal to resolve the sport's first work stoppage since 1987. Talks were scheduled to continue Tuesday.

"Making progress," said NFL Players Association outside counsel Jeffrey Kessler, who also represents locked-out NBA players.

Commissioner Roger Goodell and NFLPA head DeMaurice Smith spoke to each other on the telephone Monday and planned to stay in regular contact.

"Nobody cheers for you at Mile 25 of a marathon. You still have to cross the finish line," NFLPA spokesman George Atallah said in Washington. "There still are things that can get you tripped up, and we're going to push through."

Owners are set to hold a special meeting in Atlanta on Thursday, when they could ratify a new agreement - if there is one. Executives from all 32 teams then would be briefed there Thursday and Friday on how the terms would affect league business, two people familiar with the plan told The Associated Press.

The people said the clubs were told Monday that topics would include the 2011 NFL calendar, rookie salary system and guidelines for player transactions. They spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the process is supposed to remain confidential.

Any tentative agreement also must be approved by the players, of course, including star quarterbacks Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees and the other plaintiffs in a federal antitrust suit against the league.

Members of the NFLPA executive committee and representatives of every team were heading to Washington by Wednesday, in preparation for possible decisions on re-establishing a union and signing off on a tentative pact with owners.

Atallah said the players would be gathering "with the hope they have something to look at, and with the hope we can move forward on this."

Owners locked out players on March 12, when the old collective bargaining agreement expired, leaving the country's most popular professional sports league in limbo. The sides are trying to forge a settlement in time to keep the preseason completely intact. The exhibition opener is supposed to be the Hall of Fame game between the St. Louis Rams and Chicago Bears on Aug. 7.

The regular-season opener is scheduled for Sept. 8, when the Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers are to host the New Orleans Saints.

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick tweeted Monday: "Sound like we gonna be back to work so soon!!!"

One issue standing in the way of a resolution, according to a person from each side of the dispute and speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity: Players want owners to turn over $320 million in unpaid benefits from the 2010 season. Because there was no salary cap that season, the old collective bargaining agreement said NFL teams were not required to pay those benefits.

On a separate matter, one of those people, as well as a second person familiar with the negotiations, also told the AP that a proposal currently under consideration would set up nearly $1 billion over the next 10 years in additional benefits for retired players. That would include $620 million in pension increases, long-term care insurance and disability programs. Representatives of retired players are expected to be in New York for Tuesday's talks; that group complained to the court recently that it had been excluded from negotiations.

At federal court in Minnesota, where the players' antitrust suit is pending, their lawyers filed a motion Monday asking for a summary judgment that the lockout is illegal and that players are entitled to damages. The NFL, meanwhile, asked the court for a week's extension to file their formal response to the lawsuit; the original deadline was Monday.

Those filings were necessary, procedural moves that would be rendered moot if an agreement is reached before the Aug. 29 hearing date. Later Monday, the NFL and retired players filed a joint request to delay the hearing for at least a month to allow owners "to focus on the continuing mediation."

Atallah called the current players' filing "an obligation to protect the members of the class."

"Obviously, if we come to a settlement, it all can be lifted at any time," he said.

During lengthy negotiations last week, players and owners came up with the framework of a CBA that addresses most of their differences.

Pacquiao vs Marquez Tour starts September

Top Rank Promotions CEO Bob Arum unveiled his plans for the press tour for the Nov. 12 third bout between eight division titlist Manny Pacquiao in defense of his WBO welterweight belt opposite WBO and WBA light weight titlist Juan Manuel Marquez at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

The 37-year-old Marquez (53-5-1, 39 knockouts) downed the 25-year-old Likar Ramos (24-2, 18 KOs) at Plaza de Toros, Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico last Sunday, to set up a third meeting with Pacquiao (53-3-2, 38 KOs).

Pacquiao battled to a disputed draw and won by split-decision victory, respectively, against Marquez in May of 2004 March of 2008.

"What we're planning is a press conference with both fighters in the Philippines in Manila on Saturday, Sept. 3. We expect an attendance of about 500,000. Then, from there, we leave from Manila on Monday morning, and we will arrive in New York on Monday afternoon," said Arum.

"We'll then do a press conference in New York on Tuesday, and then on Tuesday evening we will fly to Los Angeles and do a press conference there on Wednesday or Thursday," said Arum. "Thursday afternoon, we're flying to Mexico City and we'll do a press conference in Mexico City in the Presidential Square for 50,000 people."

Arum did not rule out an attempt to take the promotion to Washington, D.C., although that move appears unlikely.

In February, as part of the promotion of Pacquiao's May 7 defense by unanimous decision over Shane Mosley (46-7, 39 KOs), Pacquiao and his wife, Jinkee, were invited to a luncheon meeting with president Barack Obama and his wife, Michele at the White House.

MODEST

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400m freestyle races.

Chentsova's PBT in the 400m freestyle is 5:16.62, which she logged during the Guam tournament in May this year. Chentsova dropped about 24 seconds from her previous PBT (5:39.46). In the 200m, Chentsova's new PBT is 2:29.86, which she also posted during the Guam meet and is more than two seconds better than her previous record (2:31.96).

Nina Mosley holds the CNMI age group record in the 200m freestyle, tallying 2:21.37 on May 5, 2004. Anneka Sakovich owns the Commonwealth's age group mark in the 400m freestyle (4:54:07) and the record has been in the books for about 24 years (Dec. 10, 1987).

Chentsova said swimming in the World Championships is a dream come true and she is thankful that she is given a chance to compete in the prestigious event at a young age.

"It has been my dream to join the World Championships, but to be honest I never expected that I would make it at this early. I am very excited and looking forward to seeing a lot of talents in China. This is one adventure I will never forget," the Whispering Palms student added.

Before leaving for the World Championship today, Chentsova underwent a rigorous training with SSC coaches Michael Villagomez and Lisa Kimball. Villagomez will be accompanying the CNMI swimmers to China.

"Our coaches formulated drills that help us work on our weak points. We practice five to times a week, two to three hours a day," Chentsova said.

CNMI

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Dakota Hall, William Hinson II, Kennedy Izuka, Hunter Jewell, Andrew Johnson, Angelo Jones, Jehn Joyner, Jake Lee, Sean Perez, John Taisacan, and Jirech Yobech, arrived in Chinese-Taipei on Monday.

When the CNMI youth strikers first dueled Chinese-Taipei last year in Guam, the Commonwealth bets suffered a 0-14 spanking at the hands of the 2011 host. In their second encounter, though Chinese-Taipei is heavily favored to win, the CNMI is expected to put on a better showing in its first game in the five-day competition.

After its match against the host country, the Commonwealth strikers will take on Hong Kong next in the last game tomorrow at 4:30pm at the YingFung Riverside Sports Park Field B. The CNMI didn't face Hong Kong in last year's U15 tournament, as the former British colony was in Group A, while the Commonwealth was in Group 2. Two more matches will be played simultaneously tomorrow in Day 2 of the competition with Macau battling Korea at YingFung's Field A and Taipei squaring off with Guam at the BaiLing Riverside Sports Park.

The CNMI' s last three games in the round-robin tournament will be against Korea (July 22), Guam (July 23), and Macau (July 24). The defending champion demolished the CNMI in their previous meeting in Guam, 23-0. Against Macau last year, the Commonwealth also lost, 0-7. Guam and the CNMI collided in the consolation game last year with the former winning, 22-0.

FUTSAL

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Blossoms, IT&E Awesome, Red Team, Kulet's Team, and Shirley's A and B. The men's field has Docomo, Thunder Cats, IT&E, Mellow Yellow, Go Green, and Red Inter Team.

Korean Futsal Team played in the league's opening game and defeated Docomo in the men's division match, 8-7.

Jeong Jin Jeon had a hat-trick for Korean Futsal Team, making all of his goals in the second half. Korean Futsal Team took a 4-1 lead in the first half, as Si Young Heo, Sang Ho Choi, Jin Koo Cho, and Dae Won Jeon hit one goal apiece. Dae Min Jeon was the other scorer for Korean Futsal Team in the second half. Docomo's lone goal in the first half was courtesy of Jaime Saiki.

Docomo went on to work its way back into the game in the second half, but still fell two goals short of winning its first game of the season. Trey Dunn had twin goals in the second half for Docomo, while Ropati Tonuu, Saiki, Dan Westphal, and Isra scored one each.

In the second game of the night, Mellow Yellow topped IT&E Awesome, 4-2.

Former CNMI National Team player Katie Peters, who is back on island for a visit, led Mellow Yellow's triumph in the women's division as she scored three goals. She logged two in the first half for their 2-1 advantage. Peters added one more goal in the second half, while Rose Lazaro also scored in the final frame.

IT&E Awesome's goals both came from Connie Camacho.

In the second men's division match, Wild Bill's edged Red Inter, 7-6.

Wild Bill's took the driver's seat early, 5-1, before Red Inter made the move in the second half, but still lost by only one goal.

Jeeraphong Thoensaket started things out for Wild Bill's, as he knocked in three goals. Adul Detdon and Jiayuan Guo posted one goal each for the team's four-point lead. Masatoshi Otsuka put Red Inter in the scoreboard with his goal in the first half.

In the second half, Arkie Reusora found the back of the net twice, while Otsuka, Suguru Takahashi, and Ed Cruz nailed one goal each for Red Inter. However, Red Inter failed to steal the win, as Thoensaket answered with two goals and Guo added one more.

Four games were original set for the opening day of the futsal league, but the women's match between Thai Team and Kulet's Team was reset.

Matches in the league will be played every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

LAZY

From Page 28

as they finished in double figures with 14 and 12 markers, respectively. Charlene Lizardo and Elilai Pialug chipped in three points each and Riezel David and Chelsea Bartolo contributed two each to complete the Lazy Buttsss' scoring.

While seven of the Lazy Buttsss' eight players lit up the scoreboard, Mix-A-Lot had only two players scoring in Monday night's game. Lalaine Pagarao almost single-handedly carried Mix-A-Lot to her shoulders, firing 53 points, while Maria Angela Iriarte added 10.

Pagarao drilled 25 of her total points in the first half, but since only she and Iriarte scored for Mix-A-Lot, the Lazy Buttsss took the lead at halftime, 30-27. Five different players canned baskets for the Lazy Buttsss in the opening half with Palero tallying 13 points, Joseph nailing six, and Javier posting four. Pialug, Lizardo, and David had one field goal each.

In the second half, Palero and Pagarao engaged in a shootout with the latter hitting five triples against the former's two. At one point in the second half, Pagarao scored 20 straight markers, while Palero tallied 10 straight points. However, Pagarao failed to draw help from her teammates, while Palero found allies to snap the Lazy Buttsss' losing skid.

In the first game of the day, Party Rockers downed Aye Par Battay, 77-59.

It was Party Rockers' third win against Aye Par Battay and fifth in six games. Aye Par Battay dropped to a 3-3 record, absorbing its second loss in a row.

Party Rockers got double figures from their starters with Kaylani Lebria leading the way with 18 points. Jeraldine Castillo logged 15, Melody Johnson drilled 14, and Kriz Gozon and Rachel Abrams recorded 12 each.

Only two players from Aye Par Battay tallied double figures with Jaime Mendoza firing 19 and Jeralyn Castillo scoring 14.

Party Rockers seized control of the game early, taking a 40-28 halftime lead, and never looked back from thereon. Gozon led Party Rockers' strong start when she made all her 12 points in the first 20 minutes of play, while Abrams and Castillo combined for 16.

In the second half, it was Lebria's turn to lift Party Rockers, as she hit six straight points at the start of that period and went on to score eight more markers en route to the team's 18-point win.

First Game

Party Rockers 77 – Lebria 18, Castillo 15, Johnson 14, Gozon 12, Abrams 12, Ito 2.

Aye Par Battay 59 – Mendoza 19, Castillo 14, A. Ito 8, Palero 8, Arboliras 7, Bartolo 3.

Scoring by halves: 40-28, 77-59.

Second Game

Lazy Buttsss 70 – Palero 34, Joseph 12, Javier 12, Lizardo 3, David 2, Bartolo 2.

Mix-A-Lot 63 – Pagarao 53, Iriarte 10.

Scoring by halves: 30-27, 70-63.

Rotary caging meeting tonight

Coaches or team managers of teams participating in the 2011 Saipan Rotary Club Basketball Youth League are required to attend a meeting tonight at 5:30pm at the Garapan Community Development Center.

Organizers will discuss tournament rules and regulations and schedule of coaches and officials courses and league opening and venue of games at the meeting

For more information, contact Elias Rangamar at 235-177 or eli_rang@yahoo.com, Gabriel White at 234-6548 or banmimail@gmail.com, and Abner Venus at 664-2599 or bulik29@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

BUD

From Page 27

Bar Gaia went home with the C-Chichirika cup. The team is composed of captain Roxanne Wakit, Webby Kim, Ingrid Chow, June Nunez, Carter Calma, Justin Taitano, Joe Camacho.

Regular season runners-up Jonny's Yakau Ladies raised the cup in the six-team Ladies division. The four-woman band is made up of Maruy-Louis Blaluk, Frances Magofna, Ressie Takeda and Sally Aguon.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's Power Plant of Oleai won the Inter-Government League cup over six other teams. Members include captain Ray Cepeda, Noel Unay, Patrick Taitano, Leo Cabrera, Dennis Villagomez, Frank Mizutani, Tony Dela Cruz, and Greg Repeki.

Each member of the champion teams received trophies during the banquet where top individual performers were recognized too.

These include most valuable players: Inter-Government's Joe Mafnas (0.9920 winning percentage); Ladies' Rufina Guevarra (0.9990); C-King Fisher's Scott Guerrero (0.9680); C-Chichirika's Ray Indalecio (0.9930); Thursday B-Fanihi's Kaysie Aquino (0.9650); Thursday Flame Tree's Jojo Guilas (0.9500); Tuesday B's Eric Pascual (1.00); A-division's Angelo Hernaez (0.9950); and Masters' Jun Olita (1.00).

Individual Hi-In winners include Inter-Government League and Ladies Division's Frances Magofna marking a160 and 154, respectively; C-Kingfisher's Mark Butac (136); C-Chichirika's Eddie Boy Villagomez (160); Thursday B-Fanihi's Tom Basa (160); Thursday Flame Tree's Jesse Teigita (160); Tuesday B's Peejay Naval (160); A division's Jack DL Guerrero (160); and Masters' Eric Durano (160).

Individual Hi-Out winners include Inter Government's Jack DL Guerrero (142); Ladies' Matrina Lisua (145); C-King Fisher's Carol Chargualaf (131); C-Chichirika's Matrina Lisua (109); Thursday Fanihi's Kaysie Aquino (153); Thursday Flame Tree's George Medina (156); Tuesday B's Renato Barros (142); and A division and Masters' Jeff Barit (124 and 160).

Top gun winners include Inter-Government's Jatson John (60.90 marks per round); Ladies' Aida Laniyo (46.49); C Kingfisher's Kento Togawa (42.88); C-Chichirika's Ray Indalecio (50.11); Thursday B-Fanihi's Kaysie Aquino (55.63); Thursday B-Flame Tree's Jojo Guilas (50.67); Tuesday B's Eric Pascual (59.43); A division's Jeff Barit (60.77); and Masters' Jun Olita (73.53).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	58	36	.617	—
New York	56	37	.602	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	50	44	.532	8
Toronto	47	49	.490	12
Baltimore	38	55	.409	19 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	51	44	.537	—
Detroit	50	45	.526	1
Chicago	47	49	.490	4 1/2
Minnesota	44	51	.463	7
Kansas City	38	58	.396	13 1/2

West Division

Texas	55	41	.573	—
Los Angeles	51	45	.531	4
Seattle	43	52	.453	11 1/2
Oakland	42	54	.438	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	59	36	.621	—
Atlanta	57	39	.594	2 1/2
Washington	48	48	.500	11 1/2
New York	47	48	.495	12
Florida	47	49	.490	12 1/2

Central Division

Pittsburgh	50	44	.532	—
St. Louis	50	45	.526	1/2
Milwaukee	51	46	.526	1/2
Cincinnati	47	49	.490	4
Chicago	39	58	.402	12 1/2
Houston	31	65	.323	20

West Division

San Francisco	56	41	.577	—
Arizona	52	44	.542	3 1/2
Colorado	45	51	.469	10 1/2
Los Angeles	42	54	.438	13 1/2
San Diego	41	55	.427	14 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 5, Minnesota 2, 1st game
Boston 15, Baltimore 10
N.Y. Yankees 5, Tampa Bay 4
Chicago White Sox 5, Kansas City 2
Cleveland 6, Minnesota 3, 2nd game
Pittsburgh 2, Cincinnati 0
Florida 4, N.Y. Mets 1
Chicago Cubs 6, Philadelphia 1
Washington 5, Houston 2
Atlanta 7, Colorado 4
Arizona 3, Milwaukee 0
San Francisco 5, L.A. Dodgers 0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Over 60 boats expected in SFA tournament

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 60 boats are expected to battle for the whopping $10,000 special cash prize in Saipan Fishermen's Association-organized 27th International Fishing Tournament this weekend.

The $10,000 will be awarded to the boat that will break the record of Danny Agulto, who caught a 624.34-lb mahi in 1997.

Early registration and briefing is set for this Friday from 4:30pm to 6:30pm at the Smiling Cove Marina Delta Weigh Station. Officials will explain the rules and regulations of the tournament at the briefing. Registration fee is $150 for a captain and one angler and $25 for each additional crewmember

Launching points will be at the Smiling Cove Marina and the Garapan Fishing Base Complex. Early birds can set sail at either of these locations from 6am to 8am. Late launches must tie off from Smiling Cove.

After the Saturday and Sunday tournament, prizes will be awarded to the Top 3 finishers in the billfish, yellow fin, wahoo, mahi-mahi and skipjack categories.

"The Saipan Fishermen's Association is looking forward to this weekend's turnout. With Typhoon Ma-On out of the area, we are expecting blue skies for the event." SFA president Gene Weaver said.

"We're excited about the $10,000 cash prize for the boat that can break the long standing billfish record…Hopefully it will attract more boaters to the event," said community projects manager Martin Duenas of event co-sponsor Marianas Visitor Authority.

Shamrock Warrior under skipper John Guerrero with Tony Scragg and angler Mark Staffer wheeled in a 248-lb blue marlin for last year's heaviest catch. Sixty-six boats entered the tournament in 2010.

All participating boats must undergo a Boat Safety Inspection. Appointments can be made with the Division of Boating Safety at 1-(670)-664-9180/1/2. All boats must observe safe boating rules and regulations.

The awards banquet will be held on Monday. Additional guest tickets for the banquet will be sold during Friday's pre-registration.

Mar-Pac, Delta Airlines, Pacifica Insurance, and Mobil serve as the major sponsors of the event.

For more information, contact MVA's Frank Tudela at ftudela@mymarianas.com or Ed Diaz at 1-(670)-664-3200/01 or email ediaz@mymarianas.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Delta Airlines donates plane tickets for this weekend's 27th Saipan International Fishing Tournament. Posing for a photo in the donation turnover ceremony are, from left to right, Delta Airlines' Chris A. Concepcion, SFA member Karrie Fernandez, Delta Airlines' Esther Sound, SFA president Gene Weaver, and Marianas Visitors Authority's Martin F. Duenas.

Sakudi bats for more teams in women's league

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

After ruling the women's division of the Chamonilian Softball Association's 2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League, Sakudi hopes for more competition next season.

"We would like to see the women's division expand next season, but we have to coordinate that through league officials. They reserved 15 slots for men's and just five for the women this past season, so hopefully we can work something out for next year," Sakudi team manager Ed Mendiola said.

Mendiola added many softball leagues tried utilizing a co-ed format, but because of the significant talent gap between the men and women, only a select few women players were able to legitimately compete.

Sakudi clinched the women's championship after a 28-3 demolition of Check It Out in the finals. Overall, they won nine games and lost only one (against Enamo Meta) last season to claim the pennant, too.

"We had a few close games and even lost one, but those outcomes resulted more from an off day as our sticks just didn't show up. Those things happen," Mendiola added.

Sakudi, which translates into spank or whip, is stocked with heavy hitters in its lineup and routinely runs aggressively in the base paths. The team is composed of Finals MVP Bert Camacho, Liz Lebria, Rachel Salalila, Erlinda Naputi, Pauline Camacho, Popo Tudela, Lillian Aguon, Thelma Mizer, Tani Masga, Jenny Palacios, Lenise Kapileo, Tiana Muna, Liz Palacios-Olouachel, Eileen Babauta, Juanette Atalig, Bego Camacho, Shirley Taitano, and Geraldine Songao.

Through early observation, Sakudi showed little signs of weakness in the field and really looked like an all-star team since the start of the league

Sakudi mostly made up of former Mix-A-Lot players who dominated the Saipan Softball Association-Women's Island-wide Slow-Pitch Softball League for several years.

"Other teams have young players with a lot of talent, but our team has more chemistry. If a young group of girls can find the right mix, then I think we may have a vigorous challenge next season," Mendiola said.

Members of Sakudi pose with their trophies after conquering the women's division of the Chamolinian softball league last month at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Bud Light champions feted

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Masters division's Black Stallions of Buddies Bar & Grill were recognized as the Bud Light Cup champions during the Saipan Electronic Dart Association awards banquet held Sunday at the Royal Taga Ballroom of Saipan World Resort

The Stallions are composed of captain Noel Montalbo, Jun Olita, Jun Visaya, Robert Valdez and George Medina. The Stallions finished runner-up in the regular season.

D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Kento Boyz ruled the the nine-team A division. Members include captain Wilson Quiban, Albert Guevarra, Larry Achas, Jojo Guilas, Ernie Domingo, Renato Barros, and Zaldy Quebral. Kento Boyz also finished runner-up during the regular season.

Ali'i Consulting's Kamote's of Jonny's Bar & Grill topped a field of eight to raise the Tuesday-B cup. The team is made up of captain Heidi Aquino, Kaysie Aquino, Eric Pascual, Peejay Naval, Jerome F. Sembrano, Eric Dimzon Aquino, Conrad Cuengco, and MacMac Aranda. Ali'I also took the top honors in the regular season season.

Jonny's IT&E Kamote's won the Thursday B-Fanihi cup, besting seven other squads. Members include captain Heidi Aquino, Kaysie Aquino, Jerome Sembrano, Eric Pascual, Mark Cris Badal, Peejay Naval, Jay Nunag, and Jek Jek Dionisio.

Oleai Beach Bar & Grill's No Fear hoisted the nine-team Thursday B-Flame Tree cup, beating eight other teams. The group is made up of captain Hank Magofna, Frances Magofna, Cris Selepeo, Jesse Teigita, David Nekaifes, Henry Ilo, and Sally Aguon. No Fear finished fourth during the regular season.

Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Oh! MG stole the cup in the six-team Wednesday C-Kingfisher division. Team members include captain Carol Chargualaf, Arisa S. Peters, Angela Santos, Martha "Smarty Pants" Mendiola, Andy Golden, Donovan Jose P. Castro, Bam Castro, and Juan Ogarto.

Third-ranked Gaiana-C of

See BUD on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Members of the Masters division Black Stallions of Buddies Bar & Grill pose with their Bud Light Cup trophies during the Saipan Electronic Dart Association awards banquet held Sunday at the Royal Taga Ballroom of Saipan World Resort.

Masters league eyes August opening

The Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI hopes to kick off its 35A, 40A and 45A league this August, but is still determining a location to host its games.

The league used the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last season, but according to the Division of Sports and Recreation acting director Jojo Attao, renovations at the facility will not be completed until the end of the year.

MBFNMI board chair Ray Lizama had already contacted league secretary Scott Norman to inquire about the availability of the newly opened Tan Siu Lin Sports Complex in Gualo Rai and he is still waiting for a response.

"If all goes well, we plan to kick off all three divisions this August at the TSL Sports Complex," Lizama said.

Armatech and Top 45 ruled last season's 40A and 45A divisions respectively, while the planned 35A season was postponed. Entrance fee for this year's league is set at $550 per team (including uniforms/top only). Teams can pay the $350 entrance fee, but they will not get uniforms. Payments should be made to Masters Basketball of the NMI, P.O. Box 504614 - Saipan, MP 96950. Updates about the league's start up will be released when received.

For further league updates and more information, contact mastersbasketball670@yahoo.com or visit its Facebook page listed under the same label. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Modest goal for Chentsova

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club's Victoria, seen here in a local race early this year, will leave Saipan today with teammate Grace Kimball and Tsunami Saipan's Rezne Wong to compete in the 14th FINA World Championships in Shanghai, China.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's Victoria Chentsova has set a realistic goal for the 14th FINA World Championships.

"I am aiming to beat my personal best records by good chunks of time. If I break CNMI records in my age group, that would be pretty awesome, but right now my focus is really on having new PBTs," Chentsova said.

The 13-year-old swimmer, teammate Grace Kimball, and Tsunami Saipan's Rezne Wong will leave Saipan today for Shanghai, China, to represent the Commonwealth to the biennial competition. She will be participating in the 200m and

See MODEST on Page 26

Futsal league draws 16 teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League lured 16 teams with three squads having winning debuts as competitions kicked off Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Breaking it to the win column on their first try were Korean Futsal Team, Mellow Yellow, and Wild Bill's. Other squads competing in the inaugural league are women's division's Thai Team, IT&E

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mellow Yellow' s Katie Peters, left, is defended by IT&E Awesome's Natalie Hil during their game in the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Lazy Buttsss notches first win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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The Lazy Buttsss finally barged into the win column in the 2011 BANMI Women's Summer Basketball League after slipping past Mix-A-Lot, 70-63, Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

A balance scoring and 34-point explosion from Ira Palero lifted the Lazy Buttsss to its first win in six games.

Palero nailed eight of the Lazy Buttsss' last 12 points, including two triples that sealed the team's victory. Daylinne Joseph and Marie Javier also helped the Lazy Buttsss's cause,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Lazy Buttsss' Elilai Pialug, left, and Ira Palero, right, double team the driving Lalaine Pagarao of Mix-A-Lot during their game in the BANMI women's caging Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

CNMI vs Taipei in EAFF U15 tourney opener

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members and coaches of the CNMI U15 Team pose for a group photo in Japan where they had a mini camp over the weekend.

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REPORTER

The CNMI U15 Team will play host Chinese-Taipei today in the opening game of the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament.

The opener is set for 4pm (6pm on Saipan) at the Taipei Municipal Stadium. Two other games are scheduled for Day 1 of the competition that will run until Sunday. In the second match, defending champion Korea will take on last year's runner-up Hong Kong in an early rematch at 6pm, while the last game of the day at 8pm will feature Macau and Guam.

The Commonwealth strikers will be facing the host after completing a mini camp in Japan over the weekend. The CNMI U15 Team, which is composed of Jordan Butcher, Enrico del Rosario, Ethan Dickinson, Kenneth Domingo, Gregzon Fontanilla, Joel and Mason Fruit,

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